THE TIMES

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Straw caves in over Lawrence gag

Report condemns Yard's racism

By James Landale, Stewart Tendler and Michael Harvey

JACK STRAW was last night forced into a humiliating climbdown over attempts to gag the media over leaked details of the report on the Stephen Lawrence case.

Less than 24 hours after the Government obtained an injunction to halt the presses at *The Sunday Telegraph*, the Home Secretary agreed that the contents of the report could be reprinted. His legal advisers admitted the injunction was unworkable.

As Mr Straw licked his wounds, officials launched a mole hunt for the source of the leak. The 350-page report, with its 70 recommendations, was restricted to a handful of officials, the inquiry members and some ministers.

The leak reveals a report highly critical of the Metropolitan Police which is accused of being riven by "pernicious and institutionalised racism". Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Commissioner, is attacked for his endorsement of a flawed report on the Lawrence murder inquiry and contrasts his attitude towards racism in his force with the response of other chief constables to the issue in their forces.

> ‘Not only was the Home Secretary's case defective; his action was ineffective ’

Leading article, page 21

The report, pages 2, 3

Mr Straw said yesterday that he would like to identify the leaker but insisted: "In the Home Office, we have gone to very great lengths to make sure that this report was kept secure."

Home Office officials refused to reveal who, apart from the Home Secretary, had been given a copy and how many had been made available.

One Whitehall source suggested that fewer than ten copies had been given to the Home Office to allow officials to draw up a response. Such was the concern that apart from Mr Straw, it is understood that only a few senior officials and Home Office ministers had seen the document

The latest drama in the Stephen Lawrence case began on Saturday night when Mr Straw secured an injunction against any reporting of the leaked extracts after learning they were being published in the first editions of *The Sunday Telegraph*. He argued that partial leaking would be "profoundly unfair" to the family of the murdered black teenager and the Metropolitan Police.

Yesterday legal advisers for six national newspapers including *The Times*, were prepared to argue before Mr Justice Rix, who issued the injunction by telephone from home, that by the time the injunction was issued the early edition of the newspaper was already being distributed.

Reports from *The Sunday Telegraph* appeared on ITN news before the injunction was received and also in Scottish newspapers, which are not affected by English law.

Plans were made to hire a room at the Dorchester Hotel where the judge was due to attend a wedding reception to argue the case. Two hours before the meeting Treasury solicitors agreed a variation to the injunction.

The new wording allows publication and comment on any part of the Macpherson report already in the public domain. At the same time *The Sunday Telegraph* must return any copies or extracts of the report it possesses.

Last night the Home Office insisted that Mr Straw had been right to issue the injunction against the partial leaking. The statement said the principle behind the action had been upheld by the maintenance of the injunction against publication of any further material from the report.

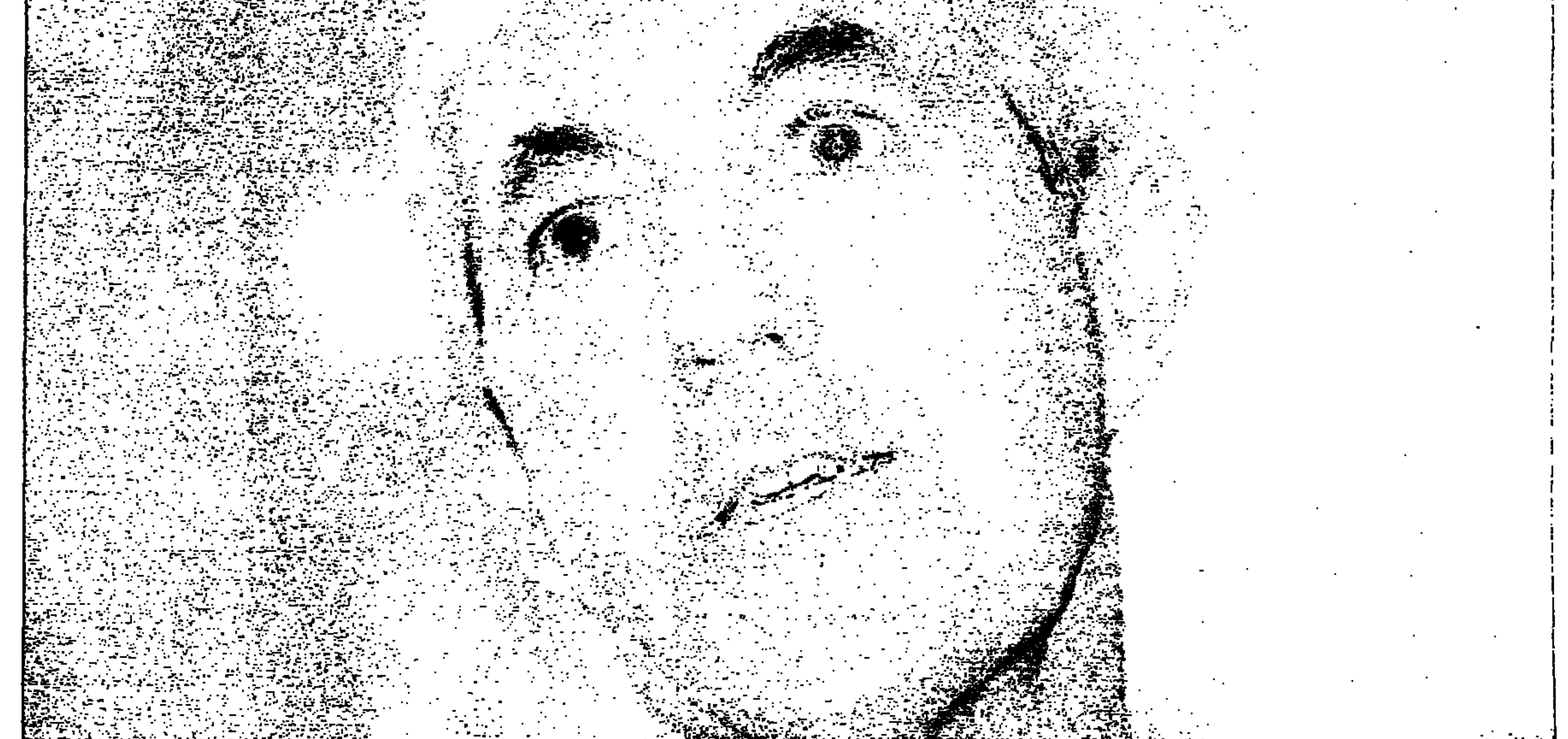
The statement said the variation of the injunction represented no more than a recognition of the fact that some of the report's contents are now in the public domain.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "The truth is that the Home Secretary has been forced into an astonishing climbdown. The injunction applied for less than 24 hours ago has been lifted. That is a humiliating defeat for the Government. They acted in an arbitrary and a high-handed manner and they came a cropper and they deserved to have done so."

Matthew d'Ancona, deputy editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, said: "We are pleased sense has prevailed. But it is a bit late in the day and we are disappoi ted on behalf of the many thousands of *Sunday Telegraph* readers who were denied the chance of reading the story."

Mr Straw also faced criticism from Labour MPs. Alan Simpson, Labour

Continued on page 2, col 6



Under pressure: Sir Paul Condon is likely to quit if the Lawrence report hits at his closest officers or himself but many believe he must stay to see this crisis through

Condon will try to ride out storm

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

SIR PAUL CONDON'S job as the most powerful policeman in Britain is in the balance today with the leak of damning criticism by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

The report rejects Sir Paul's view of limited racism in his force and compares his approach with the more positive attitude of other chief constables.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the inquiry chairman, attacks Sir Paul's criticisms of the inquiry and accuses him of a "lack of rigour" in accepting a flawed internal review of the Stephen Lawrence murder team.

Sir Paul and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will now have to decide whether the Commissioner can ride out the storm and stay head of the the Metropolitan Police until he officially retires next January.

Yesterday there was speculation that Mr Straw's fury over the leak was partly fuelled by irritation that his determination to keep Sir Paul in office is now in danger. Under the strategy Sir Paul would steer his force through the immediate controversy and maintain morale. The Home Office would have a breathing space to decide between a "safe pair of hands" or the more likely preference of choosing another moderniser.

Mr Straw has already told Sir Paul that he must see the force through the crisis. The view is shared by senior officials within the Home Office and Sir William, the inquiry chairman, is also said to believe he should not go.

Now, the leak means Sir Paul faces intense speculation for several days before the Home Secretary can announce his response and publish the full report. There are also reported to be divisions among ministers about Sir Paul's future.

The Commissioner's decision may hang on three factors: whether he can accept the report's much wider definition of institutional racism; how strongly he feels personally criticised by the review; and whether any of his assistant commissioners are personally attacked. If they are, he will assume responsibility for his top team and go. At least one key senior officer has said privately that he would then resign out of support for Sir Paul.



"D'you think the egg on Jack Straw's face is genetically modified?"

The Commissioner has also had comfort from other chiefs. Last month many officers at a national meeting of chief constables gave him support. A deputation led by John Newing, Chief Constable of Derbyshire and President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has also urged Sir Paul to stay.

Senior officers told Sir Paul that he must remain to prevent the morale of the police being destroyed. There is also concern that his resignation would set precedents. One officer said: "He must not be Hoddled" — destroyed by media speculation.

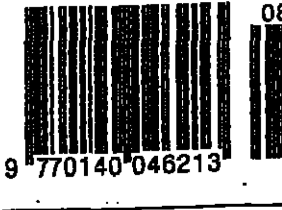
The officer added that Sir Paul had taken the right decisions by agreeing to a review, but was then let down by his officers. He had not ignored the problems but had acted. This was different from a chief constable who refused to accept there were problems.

Last night the Yard said that Sir Paul still intends, as planned, to retire next year. He would only consider resigning if he was criticised personally, or dishonesty or malpractice were raised.

Yard sources said Sir Paul was waiting to see the full report before commenting further.

Sir Paul came into office at the age of 45 as the youngest commissioner this century and is now the longest serving for more than 40 years. If he goes he will be the first to be driven out of office since Victorian times. It will be his decision because he cannot be sacked under the protocol surrounding his job. The commissioner is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Home Secretary after a discreet selection process.

In the 1980s the Home Office and Buckingham Palace tried to persuade Sir David McNee to go over the break-in by Michael Fagin into the Queen;s bedroom. He refused to go and told Lord Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, that the Yard had been warning the Home Office and the Palace for months about poor security.



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Omagh bomb: six held

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

POLICE investigating the Omagh bomb arrested at least six people yesterday in dawn raids north and south of the border.

Four men were arrested in the Dundalk area of County Louth which is the base of the so-called Real IRA, the republican splinter group that claimed responsibility for the bomb. A fifth man was arrested later.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary confirmed that it too had arrested a number of people "in connection with ongoing inquiries into the Omagh bomb" but refused to elaborate. Some sources indicated the two men were arrested in the republican stronghold of South Armagh where it is believed that the bomb was built.

The two forces arrested and questioned 42 possible suspects immediately after the explosion last August. Detective Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson, head of the RUC's Omagh investigation, told *The Times* at Christmas that he knew half-a- dozen of those responsible for the bomb but still needed conclusive evidence.

Earlier this month Pat Byrne, the Irish police Commissioner, said his men had identified some of those responsible and was "confident that at the end of the day prosecutions will be brought".

The Irish police said two of the four men it arrested were in their thirties, one was in his fifties and the fourth in his sixties. One of them came from Northern Ireland.

The Omagh bomb was the single worst atrocity of the Troubles. Twenty-nine people were killed and more than 200 injured — many of them women and children.

The two forces have established that the 300-pound bomb was in a red Vauxhall Cavalier stolen in Carrickmacross, Co Monagahan.

Exiles' plea, page 7

Albright warns peace talks

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, warned both the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians at the Rambouillet peace talks that they were dealing with decisions of war and peace in a take-it-or-leave-it constitutional package for Kosovo guaranteed by Nato peacekeepers..............Page 14

Royal evacuees

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Princess Caroline of Monaco were among hundreds of holidaymakers flown out of Austrian and Swiss ski resorts after heavy rain and snow brought widespread disruption..............Page 12

Hague's lottery lunch

By Paul Wilkinson

WILLIAM HAGUE'S aunt kept her promise yesterday when she held a party for him, his wife Ffion and 174 other guests to celebrate her £856,000 National Lottery win in November.

Despite her new wealth, Marjorie Longdin, 73, ensured the £12.95-a-head menu she chose at the three-star Consort Hotel in Thurscroft, near Rotherham, included good simple Yorkshire fare. While Ffion started with melon, he opted for Yorkshire pudding with onion gravy.

All three had Dijon chicken as their main course, helped down with red and white wine from a free bar. Mr Hague, who had travelled from his Richmond constituency in North Yorkshire, said: "I am delighted to be here. It's a great family gathering and yet another example of Auntie Marjorie's generosity."

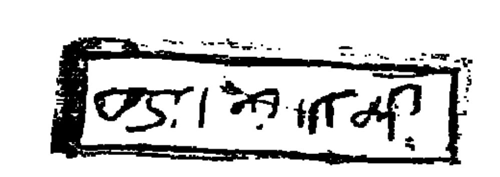
The occasion was a double celebration, yesterday being Ffion's 31st birthday — marked by the presentation of a huge bouquet from the family. Mr Hague added: "It is very rare for this number of members of the family to get together. It is the first time I, my three sisters and cousins have been together at the same time."

Since his aunt's win, he said, she had shown a wonderful balance of modesty and generosity. When she arrived wearing her Sunday best blue two-piece suite, Mrs Longdin said: "It is better to have a party like this than pay inheritance tax. Everything has turned out lovely."

Photograph, page 24

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THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

Condon must admit institutional racism

Chief told his force suffers from a 'corrosive disease'

By Adam Sherwin

THE Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, must unequivocally acknowledge that "institutionalised racism" exists within the force or reconsider his position, concludes Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's leaked report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

The report criticises Sir Paul's performance and rejects his assertion that there is no culture of racism within the force. The report says that racism within the Metropolitan Police is "pernicious" and a "corrosive disease".

Sir William condemns the Metropolitan Police for its failure to investigate the murder properly. That failure, he says, was due to an inability to provide a "professional service" to ethnic minorities.

The inquiry chairman makes 70 recommendations designed to transform relations between the black community and the police and warns senior officers who cannot accept those conclusions that their jobs will become "extremely difficult".

The report says: "There must be an unequivocal acceptance of the problem of institutionalised racism and its nature before it can be addressed as it needs to be in full partnership with minority ethnic communities ... Any chief police officer who feels unable to respond will find it extremely difficult to work in harmony and co-operate with the community in the way that policing by consent demands."

The report contrasts the view of Sir Paul, who has consistently rejected the accusation of institutionalised racism, with other senior officers who have accepted that racism is ingrained in the police service.

Sir William makes direct criticism of Sir Paul's handling of the Lawrence investigation. There was a "lack of rigour ... by the Commissioner himself" in the reception of an earlier internal inquiry into the case which gave the police investigations a clean bill of health.

Sir William writes of that internal review: "The cross-examination was robust and searching but the problems were caused by the failure of police and answers to questions rather than the nature of the questions. It is of central importance that the Commissioner and his officers should recognise and accept this fact."

Senior officers, including the Commissioner, should not have needed the advantage of hindsight to realise something was wrong. The report also rejects criticisms levelled by Sir Paul at the Lawrence inquiry itself as neither "appropriate and justified".

Sir William provides his definition of "insitutionalised racism". There was a "collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture and ethnic origin", the report says.

"It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amounts to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

The importance of race relations was constantly "underplayed or ignored" by police officers investigating the murder. The report says that for a long time they refused to acknowledge the attack had been racially motivated - while at the same time mislaying crucial evidence.

One senior officer appeared to have lied after the internal review of the murder investigation which exonerated the Met came under scrutiny. The investigating officer, Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker, later said he had told his superior, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland, that he had misgivings about the case - a claim disputed by Mr Osland. Sir William's view in the report is that one senior officer was "palpably wrong and cannot be telling the truth".

The report said: "There was a lack of rigour in the reception of the review document first and foremost by Mr Osland but also by those above him including the Commissioner himself ... Without the need for hindsight the review should have generated questions from the senior officers which may have uncovered the difficulties which have substanitally been revealed in this investigation."

The report does praise some officers for their performance and does not brand all officers as racist. The racism that does exist is however, "pernicious".

Radical changes to the legal and criminal justice system are proposed after a detailed analysis of the reasons for the collapse of the case against the five white youths accused. Sir William wants to see "the Court of Appeal being given power to permit prosecutions after an earlier acquittal" when fresh and important evidence is produced.

Three of the men suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence have been acquitted and cannot be tried again for murder. The change, likely to be highly controversial, is expected to permit only one re-trial of someone who has been acquitted.

Other recommended legal changes would make it a crime to use racist language and possess an offensive weapon even in private — as seen in a police video of the Lawrence suspects.

The report calls for victim's families to be given advance disclosure of evidence at inquests, saying that "the paucity of information" offered to the Lawrence family reflected a lack of "open and meaningful communication".

One of the most significant recommendations is for a tougher Race Relations Act covering the police and possibly the armed forces and immigrations service. It would mean that police officers would lose their exemption from the provisions of the 1968 and 1978 Race Relations Acts while performing their duties. Jack Straw is expected to signal his support for such a measure during his Commons statement on Wednesday.

The current rules mean that cases such as that of the black motorist Carl Joseph, who alleged last month that police in Birmingham discriminated against him by stopping his car 34 times, have to be brought under common law. These cases are difficult to pursue and if successful, result in small damages. The Macpherson proposals could see the courts make awards for loss of employment and awarding aggravated damages of more than £500,000.

Such a change in the law would give the Commission for Racial Equality statutory powers to launch investigations into the police. An inquiry into an investigation such as the Stephen Lawrence case would have the power to seize documents and call witnesses.

Other measures likely to be adopted from the report include amendments to the National Curriculum to emphasise the value of cultural diversity.

Many of the recommendations are likely to be included in a government package of police reforms later this year.

DAMAGE LIMITATION

SCOTLAND YARD launched its damage limitation operation against the fallout from the Stephen Lawrence report *six months* ago, almost as soon as Sir William Macpherson of Cluny ended hearings into the flawed murder investigation (Stewart Tendler writes).

Throughout the inquiry, a team of officers sat in the hearings taking notes. Their briefings and notes from press officers also attending the inquiry helped to shape the spin initiative. At the Yard Dick Fedorcio, head of the Directorate of Public Affairs, formed a four-man unit to coordinate the Yard's strategy.

The Yard would apologise but at the same time point out flaws in the inquiry and show that positive action was already under way.

Sir Paul Condon apologised through one of his assistant commissioners to the Lawrences during the hearings. When Sir Paul, whose personal credentials on racism have always been above reproach, later appeared at the inquiry he again offered an apology.

Since the autumn the Yard has been highlighting its plans for change. There has been a succession of announcements about tackling race crime and curbing racism in the London force, and renewing investigations into the deaths of Michael Menson and Ricky Reel, both young men from ethnic minority backgrounds.



Protesters calling for the dismissal of Sir Paul Condon after the inquiry into the police handling of the Lawrence case

When secrecy has no point

By Michael Harvey

THE decision to vary the injunction order follows previous cases where once information is readily available to a large proportion of the population, it is absurd to continue to prevent publication.

As Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson explained in a judgment in the High Court in the early days of the *Spycatcher* sage in 1987: "In the contemporary world of electronics and jumbo jets, news anywhere is news everywhere." In other words, once a secret is out, an injunction can serve no sensible purpose.

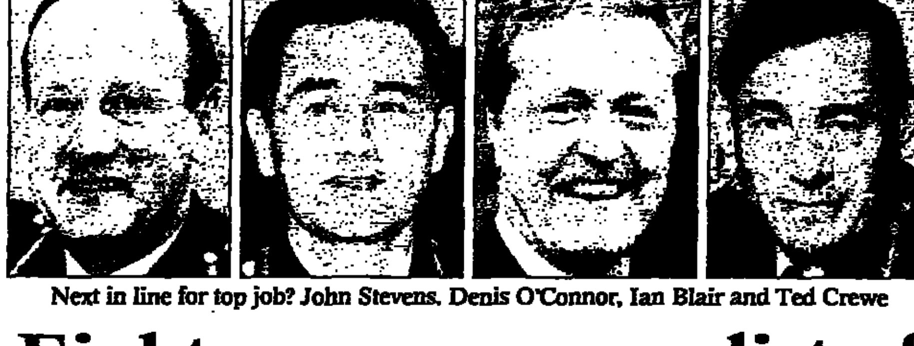
The most relevant precedent was in 1992 when the story of Paddy Ashdown and his mistress. A note giving details of the relationship was in a safe at the offices of his solicitors, which were burgled.

Mr Ashdown obtained an injunction preventing the details being printed in England, but newspapers in Scotland went ahead. Mr Ashdown decided that with the details out in the open, the English injunction was rendered useless and in effect lifted it by making a public statement about the affair.

Jack Straw has personal experience of this type of situation. In January last year, Mr Justice Toulson lifted an injunction preventing the identification of Mr Straw's son William, who was accused of selling cannabis.

The judge concluded it would be pointless to continue the ban after newspapers in Scotland, Ireland and France had identified the 17-year-old and the information was readily available on the Internet.

The injunction had been granted to protect William Straw's identity on the grounds he was "concerned in proceedings". Scottish newspapers had gone ahead with publication as Scotland has a separate legal system which protects only children under 16 from being identified in such circumstances.


Next in line for top job? John Stevens, Denis O'Connor, Ian Blair and Ted Crewe

Eight names are on list of candidates for Met job

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

JOHN STEVENS, the 56-year-old Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, would succeed Sir Paul Condon as the head of Scotland Yard if he resigned this week.

A highly experienced detective who rejoined the Yard last year after a distinguished police career, Mr Stevens could move into the £130,000 a year job in the short term at least. Liked by Jack Straw and Tony Blair, he might then be offered a four-year contract.

In the meantime, the Home Office could choose a younger senior officer — a "moderniser" — to groom as the number two. One candidate might be Denis O'Connor, 48, presently the Assistant Commissioner responsible for race policy.

Another possible name could be that of Ian Blair, the 45-year-old Chief Constable of Surrey, who put down his marker with a controversial speech last week calling for the modernisation of the police service.

Other reformers might include David Phillips, 53, Chief Constable of Kent, or Tony Burden, 48, head of South Wales police.

But the Home Office could also turn to Ted Crewe, now 54, who is Chief Constable of the West Midlands and has won praise for turning round the fortunes of an ailing force.

There are also arguments in the Home Office for one of the grandees of the police service to hold the position. Bill Taylor, a former Yard officer, Commissioner of the City of London force and an inspector of constabulary, has moved to Scotland as the Scottish inspector of constabulary. Still in his early 50s he could get the call back to London.

John Evans, 55, is Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall and could also be considered a safe pair of hands to hold the Metropolitan Police together.

Editors condemn Straw

EDITORS and media lawyers denounced the "pyjama justice" that allowed the Government to stop the presses.

Andrew Neil, Editor of *The Sunday Times* during the *Spycatcher* affair, said the injunction was "a complete attack on the freedom of the press".

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, said: "This is an outrageous act of utter hypocrisy. They have leaked every report and policy initiative when it suits them. Yet now they have the gall to injunct a newspaper for doing the same thing."

Geoffrey Roberston, QC and media lawyer, said: "Saturday night's decision puts the Government in clear break of the freedom of expression guarantees in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights."

Minister caves in

Continued from page 1

MP for Nottingham South, said the injunction had been a "farce". Bob Marshall-Andrews, Labour MP for Medway, said the Government was at fault for failing to place the report before Parliament quick enough.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said Mr Straw's actions were "understandable" but added that "the partial lifting of the injunction reflects the reality that this information is now public".

Ros Howells, a close friend of the Lawrence family, said she had spoken to them and they were shocked by the leak. She said: "The Lawrences expected to be among the first people to be told what was in the report before it hit the headlines.

"It is inconsiderate for it to come out in this way. Who knows what the full report says and how much of *The Sunday Telegraph* story is correct?"

Last night Scotland Yard said it would make no comment until the inquiry report is officially published.

It said no copies of the report have been seen either by Sir Paul or any his senior officers.

THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

How Straw's decision on Lawrence leak came unstuck

Concerted media reaction forced a legal retraction, report James Landale and Stewart Tendler

JACK STRAW was still lamenting the 4-1 defeat of Blackburn Rovers by Sheffield Wednesday when his mobile phone rang as he travelled back to London early on Saturday evening.

By the time he had finished the conversation, the Home Secretary was even more depressed.

Officials at the Home Office had just informed him that *The Sunday Telegraph* was publishing extracts of the report into the killing of Stephen Lawrence.

Rumours had been circulating all day that a Sunday newspaper had obtained part of the report, which will be published in full on Wednesday.

About 6.30pm a media organisation, understood to be the BBC, called the Home Office to ask if it was preparing any reaction to the *Telegraph* report. Officials called Matthew D'Ancona, the paper's deputy editor, just after 7pm and asked what was being published.

It is understood that the Home Office was not given precise details — certainly not a text — about what the *Telegraph* was writing. Mr D'Ancona, who was in charge during the absence of the editor, Dominic Lawson, was at that point not given any indication that an injunction might be sought.

Mr Straw was immediately contacted by officials. Despite the lack of detail, he decided within a matter of minutes that an injunction should be sought from a judge. "I have to take many decisions on the basis of less than full information and at very short time," Mr Straw told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* yesterday. "This was one of those."

He added: "When I heard of the fact that *The Sunday Telegraph* were running what I understood to be a partial and selective account of this report, I took the view that, first of all,


Straw: depressed after call on mobile phone

that was profoundly unfair to the family and the police officers involved and very unfair to Parliament as well."

Although it was Mr Straw's decision, a Downing Street spokesman said that "No 10 was informed as the process was going on".

Mr Straw authorised officials to seek an injunction through Roland Philips, the Treasury Solicitor, who technically represents the Government in these matters.

Mr Philips called *The Sunday Telegraph* about 7.30pm to tell the paper that he was seeking an injunction. Journalists at the paper were amazed. "There was a complete sense of astonishment and bewilderment," a reporter said.

About 8pm, Julia Braybrook, the newspaper's in-house lawyer, had a brief telephone conversation with Mr Justice Rix, the duty judge who had been contacted by Mr Philips at his home in St John's Wood, North London. The conversation lasted a matter of minutes and Mrs Braybrook had little time to make a substantial case against the gag. The newspaper had no time to instruct a barrister.

Mr Justice Rix issued the injunction about half an hour later. This was communicated to Mr D'Ancona at 9.10pm and he immediately stopped the presses. "The first editions were rolling off the press by the time the judge got to talk to our lawyers," he said yesterday.

"So we have ended up with the preposterous situation where readers in Scotland and in other parts of the country have our full report and those in other parts of the country have nothing apart from the fact that we had to pull it."

Some 290,000 copies of the first edition carried extracts from the report. They were available at newsagents across Scotland and Ireland, most of South Wales and the further reaches of the West Country.

Delivery quirks meant that readers in Coventry could study the report's conclusions while those in Birmingham could not. First editions were also available on the streets of London and at its mainline stations from early Saturday evening.

Other media organisations, unaware of that any injunction had been granted, continued to put out the story. ITN broadcast the story in its 8.40pm bulletin. The Press Association, the national agency, was still running the story at 9.58pm before putting out a notice at 10.11pm about the injunction.

The reaction, when it came, was united against the Government. Ministers woke up yesterday morning to hear expressions of growing puzzlement and anger at what appeared to be a form of censorship. Suspicion grew that the injunction was designed not to protect the Lawrences or any police officers but to protect the Government's media strategy for releasing the report.

Ministers are understood to be divided over whether Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, should be forced to resign because of the report's conclusions. Paul Boateng, the police minister, was reported by the *Telegraph* as believing that Sir Paul should go. How the report is presented will have a huge impact on his future.


Doreen Lawrence before a picture of her murdered son. Friends said she was unhappy at publication of the report

Tom Baldwin, the *Sunday Telegraph*'s political editor, said: "It seems increasingly clear that the Government is now a rival news organisation which, unlike others, seeks to protect its exclusives by resorting to court action."

In the face of concerted lobbying by lawyers representing many national newspapers, including *The Times*, the Government backed down. Mr Justice Rix, attending a wedding reception at the Dorchester, agreed that the gag should be amended to allow publication of those parts of the report that were already in the public domain.

Mr Straw's setback marks the first real black mark in his ministerial copybook. Unlike many other Cabinet Ministers, the Home Secretary is known as a safe pair of hands who can handle anything that Tony Blair, the media or fate can throw at him.

The straightforward way in which he dealt with his son William's involvement in drugs earned him respect rather than opprobrium.

His steady containment of the political aspects surrounding the future of General Pinochet has averted several potential traps for the Government.

Mr Straw has become that most unusual political creature, a broadly popular Home Secretary. Senior police officers and Middle England like him for his toughness on crime, the civil liberty groups like him for his libertarian instincts. His enemies accuse him of moral authoritarianism. Many MPs have even gone so far as to hint that it could be Mr Straw, rather than Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who would replace Mr Blair if he fell under a bus tomorrow.

Mr Straw's misjudgment over yesterday's injunction is unlikely to prove fatal: his instinctive support for new Labour and Mr Blair makes him too valuable an ally for the Prime Minister.

Leading article, page 21

On-call judge alerted on his way to a wedding

By Helen Rumbelow

MR Justice Rix was among the guests at a wedding reception that was in full swing yesterday afternoon at the Dorchester in central London when he was hauled out to rule on the injunction that had stopped publication of leaks from the Stephen Lawrence report.

As fellow guests danced on at the reception, the judge was poring over papers in a side-room, approving the order to amend the injunction he had signed the night before.

On Saturday the early evening call from the Treasury Solicitor had been an unexpected interruption as he set out to dinner.

It was a busy weekend for the 54-year-old father of five, who has been a High Court judge since 1993. He lists his hobbies as music, opera, Italy, and "formerly fencing". He was educated at New College, Oxford, and Harvard Law School.

Friends say that he has one of the keenest intelligences at the Bar, and that he relishes the cut and thrust of legal argument.

However his background is not in human rights, media or free speech issues. Being a duty judge over the weekend means that he is now involved in a case well outside his specialisation of


Justice Rix: renowned for his keen intellect

commercial law. His skill in company and business litigation saw him rise quickly through the ranks to become a Queen's Counsel at the age of 37.

He is now judge in charge of the Commercial List for the Queen's Bench Division.

This was after taking a first in Classics at Oxford and going on to win a Kennedy scholarship at Harvard.

His interest in business is allied with that of his wife, Karen, who is the daughter of Baron Young of Graffham. Lord Young became Secretary of State for Trade and Industry after being ennobled by Margaret Thatcher.

The judge and his wife live in St John's Wood, North London, with their children, including two twin boys.

A director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the judge is also director of the Spiro Insitute and a former vice-chairman of the Central Council of Jewish Community Services.

The only other time that Mr Justice Rix hit the headlines was four years ago, and also involved the issuing an emergency injunction. He halted a strike that was planned on the London Underground hours before it was due to start.

Report makes 'institutional racism' cap a broader fit

Stewart Tendler reports on the changing definition of a perennial problem

THIRTY years after the term "institutional racism" was coined by an American civil rights leader, the *Stephen Lawrence inquiry report* will create a much wider-ranging interpretation.

Its breadth will be a direct challenge to the future of Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and the narrow definition he stuck by. Its implications will be felt in every police force, as well as other institutions.

The report will suggest that institutional racism is: "The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amounts to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

The phrase was first used by Stokely Carmichael in the last 1960s as the civil rights movement reflected on its limited successes. Carmichael applied the term to offices, businesses and organisations in which attempts to reform were barred by the racism of individuals.

In the aftermath of the Brixton Riots in 1981, Lord Scarman also considered the phrase. He subscribed to the "bad apple" view that there were a few racist officers but not an institution-wide problem.

He rejected any suggestion that the Metropolitan Police was "institutionally racist", understanding this to mean that an organisation was deliberately discriminatory as a matter of policy.

But half-way through the inquiry last year by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, other definitions appeared. Dr Robin Oakley, an eminent adviser to the Yard and the Home Office, submitted evidence that the "bad apples" argument was too limited.

The Commission for Racial Equality told the inquiry that institutional racism meant that of a whole organisation. The CRE argues that the way an organisation works can lead to unfair and unequal treatment. The commission gives the example of a company where all the staff are white. The firm recruits by word of mouth and this means it will always remain white even though that may not be the intention.

At the inquiry, Sir Herman Ouseley, the CRE chairman, said that institutional racism was "those established laws, customs and practices which systematically reflect and produce racial inequalities in society. If racist consequences accrue to institutional laws, customs or practices, the institution is racist whether or not the individuals maintaining those practices have racial intentions."

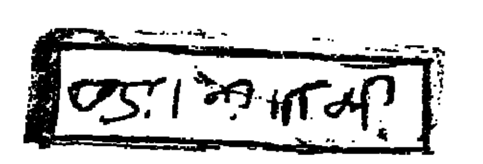
Faced with this type of definition, Sir Paul said that he could not go beyond the Scarman view. Many things were wrong, but not to the extent that a whole force would be condemned.

Other chief constables said they had racism in their forces but David Wilmot, chief constable of Greater Manchester, admitted to "internalised" prejudices that affected the way officers did their jobs.

Now Sir Paul faces a complete rejection of his view by the inquiry. It may be another factor in his decision on whether to go or stay.


The term "institutionalised racism" was first coined by the black American activist Stokely Carmichael, left. In his report, Sir William interpreted it as:

"The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin."



Lottery Scandal

It could be you

The lottery begins at birth.

The odds are, one in three babies will be born into poverty.

This is not the developing world we're talking about. This is here, now, in Britain.

The downward spiral that leaves thousands of children excluded from society is random, relentless and no fault of their own.

Where you happen to be born can have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

The highest concentration of disadvantaged children can be found in only 59 local authority districts in the country. They may be no-go areas to some, but they can be no-exit areas for the young people who have to grow up there.

How can we gamble with the future of children this way?

With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

So where does the buck stop?

With government? Or with each and every one of us?

The Children's Society believes we all have a responsibility to the next generation.

And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands-150,000 exclusions in a single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 – more than any other country in Europe.

Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years – a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with drugs and prostitution, simply to survive.



Beating the odds

Many of the problems children face are complex and interlinked.

The way we see it, they demand an holistic approach.

There is no quick fix. But there is progress to be proud of. Last year The Children's Society helped nearly 40,000 children, directly.

We are the only national charity working with youngsters on remand in prison.

We were the first to open a refuge for those at risk on the streets, the first to develop programmes in primary schools to proactively prevent exclusions and the first to introduce family centres.

Whilst our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not.

Helping them realise their full potential, enables them to act as catalysts for change within their own neighbourhood.

The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

"When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us in one of them bed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were upstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them."

Karen aged 14

As a Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

And they are nearer than you think.

The vast majority of you live within a short car ride of real poverty. To see exactly how close you are to the most deprived areas in England, Scotland and Wales, you can phone for our Lottery Scandal Map.

Being born in the wrong place can extinguish every opportunity a child might have in life.

Which is why your support is invaluable. By helping to fund our work, you will be helping those children who have never had a decent chance.

It shouldn't be a lottery.

Help us put it right.

Please call now for your free copy of our Lottery Scandal Map or to make a donation. Thank you.

0845 600 4400

www.the-childrens-society.org.uk



The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales
Room 229, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL.
Charity Registration No. 221124

2604/T2

Puzzle of the Millennium Bug is solved

At 12, Patrick Bossert demystified Rubik's Cube; now it's the computer cataclysm, reports Nigel Hawkes

THE man who solved the riddle of Rubik's Cube and wrote a bestseller about it at the age of 12 has now cracked a far more important puzzle — where the Millennium Bug will strike.

Patrick Bossert sold 1.5 million copies of his book at the height of Rubik's Cube mania in 1981. The money he made enabled him to buy personal computers and become an expert programmer. Now the technical director of WST Business Technology at the venerable age of 30, Mr Bossert and a team of colleagues have developed the Delta-T probe, which can ascertain whether microchips buried deep in electronic equipment are likely to fail when 1999 becomes 2000.

Sainsbury's and British Airways are among major organisations testing the probe. Trefor Hales, retail systems director at Sainsbury's, says that tests at a supermarket in Devon have been a success.


Patrick Bossert: bought PCs with his royalties

"We have been working on the Millennium Bug since 1995, and thanks to the Delta-T probe, we have confirmed that the work we have done on equipment with embedded chips has been spot-on," he said.

Mr Bossert said that his invention made it possible to find out exactly how individual embedded chips — many of which were built by long-defunct companies — operates. Crucially, it can tell whether each particular chip processes the date and time, making it likely to malfunction at the instant the year 1999 becomes the year 2000.

Such chips control systems as diverse as production lines, medical equipment, telecommunications, cash machines, fire alarms and sprinkers.

"The programs controlling these devices are built into the chips themselves, and the people who originally sold the equipment cannot always guarantee they won't fail," Mr Bossert said.

"Again and again, companies find they can't get statements from the original vendors of the equipment, or if they can, those statements are very circumspect."

The Delta-T probe consists of a lap-top computer linked through an analysis box to the device being tested. Clips are attached to the back of the chip, and the probe "listens" as the chip operates.


MARTIN BEDDALL

Mr Bossert and his team have developed a way of eavesdropping on old microchips to see if they can beat the bug

The analysis box is able to establish whether the chip processes the date and time. If so, the lap-top computer records the actual lines of computer code in the chip responsible for that function and sends them off by e-mail for detailed analysis. This can reveal whether the chip is likely to fail, and if so, how bad the effects are likely to be.

"Only a very small percentage fail critically," Mr Bossert said. "One in 100 might develop faults, but these might not be critical — a fire system might log alarms in the wrong order, for example. But one in 500 might fail in a way that would prevent the equipment working at all."

Once such a chip is found, he said, the safest option is to replace it.

Mr Bossert, who wass brought up in Richmond, Surrey, started his career by working out how to solve Rubik's Cube, a baffling toy made up of 27 smaller cubes with faces of different colours. The aim is to manipulate the cube until each side is a uniform colour.

He produced a four-page photocopied guide which he sold for 30p each to friends at Grey Court Secondary School in Richmond. Seen by the publisher Tony Lacey and marketed as *You Can Do the Cube* by Puffin, it sold faster than *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Mr Bossert declines to say how much he ultimately made from the book, although it has been reported as being in the vicinity of £70,000.

"I did quite well out of it," he conceded. "It was more than I ever dreamt of."

Mr Bossert went on to study electronics at York University, where he met his wife. He joined a software company and helped to build it up until he was recruited by the engineering consultants WSP.

He now has two sons, aged four and two. "The elder one is already using the Internet" he says.

☐ More details on the Delta-T probe are available on the Internet at http://www.embedded-science.com

Ingham charged over dispute

By Adam Sherwin

SIR BERNARD INGHAM, who was Margaret Thatcher's rumbustious press secretary when she was Prime Minister, has been charged with criminal damage. He presented himself at Croydon Police Station yesterday and was charged over an incident in which his neighbour's Mercedes was allegedly kicked and dented.

The incident was the latest in a feud between Sir Bernard and Barry Cripps. Sir Bernard was arrested in December after a dispute about access to their neighbouring garages, in Purley, Surrey.

The row is believed to have begun when Sir Bernard saw a car owned by Mr and Mrs Cripps parked near the garage. Friends of Mr Cripps claim that he has an undisputed right of way over the vehicular access behind Sir Bernard's property. While Mr Cripps was trying to drive up this shared access, Sir Bernard allegedly kicked the car.

Sir Bernard maintains that Mr Cripps drove over his land without permission. "When I remonstrated with him, he blocked my way into my garage and then alleged that I damaged his door, although I could see no damage," he said at the time. Sir Bernard is to appear before Croydon magistrates tomorrow.

Michael likely to quit as MP

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

ALUN MICHAEL, Welsh Secretary and likely to be the first secretary of the new Welsh assembly, indicated yesterday that he would step down as an MP at the next election.

After his victory over Rhodri Morgan in the hard-fought Welsh Labour leadership election, Mr Michael moved fast to confirm his long-term commitment to Welsh politics. He also spoke yesterday of the urgent need to unite the Labour Party in Wales to fight the assembly elections on May 6.

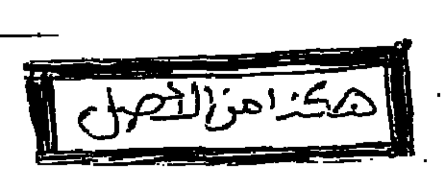
Mr Michael is to head Labour's proportional representation list of candidates in Mid and West Wales, and if he wins a place and becomes First Secretary he was expected to leave Tony Blair's Cabinet within three months.

But yesterday, in a series of interviews, Mr Michael acknowledged that his long-term plans were for the Welsh assembly. "I see my future in Wales. I think that is the inevitable consequence of the decision I took last year (to stand for the leadership)," he said.

Mr Michael is to meet Mr Morgan for talks this week to discuss how they can best forge a future working relationship for the good of the party and the Welsh assembly. There is speculation that Mr Michael might renew his offer for Mr Morgan to stand as his deputy in the election campaign, but last night senior Labour sources in Wales insisted that Mr Morgan would not be offered a specific job.

It is thought that if Mr Morgan is offered a senior Cabinet post Mr Michael would also have to offer a job to Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, who resigned from the Cabinet after "a moment of madness" on Clapham Common last October. Mr Davies has supported Mr Michael throughout the election campaign and is attempting to rebuild his political career.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Foreigners are trapped by visa office delays

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

INTERNATIONAL business executives and foreign travellers are facing lengthy delays because of chaos at the centre dealing with immigration. Computer problems and an office move have caused a backlog of casework, with the result that some people are trapped in Britain because their travel documents cannot be located.

Some delays had been forecast at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon, South London, but the Home Office now admits that the problems will continue until at least Easter, and will worsen before they get better.

Amid complaints from MPs and the business community, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, made an emergency visit to the centre last week to assess the scale of the difficulties that led to lengthy delays over visa extensions and residency applications. A damning report on a computer project is expected next month from the National Audit Office.

The chaos has been described as "worse than a Third World country" by a City solicitor, Julia Onslow-Cole of Cameron McKenna. She said: "We have had real difficulties for many clients and there is no end in sight. It is paralysing business applications."

Mail was unanswered and no one responded to telephone calls, she said, affecting international businessmen based in Britain who wished to travel abroad or extend their work permits. A fast- tracking service for solicitors representing businessmen has been withdrawn.

Foreign businessmen based in the UK were unable to leave while changes to their work permits were considered. The alteration to a work permit is dealt with in Sheffield but it must be included in their passport, a task that has to be carried out in Croydon.

A City bond dealer who contacted *The Times* was told that it would take four to six months to renew his Croatian wife's visa. In 60 telephone calls, he could reach only an answerphone.

He said: "It is a total shambles. If you go down there at 7.15am there are sometimes up to 200 people waiting outside the building and then when they get in there are hardly any facilities."

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, had said that there would be considerable upheaval between December and February as computers were upgraded, staff moved from one building to another, and officials were trained in new working methods. A company installing software pulled out of the project last year, but the Home Office decided to press ahead with the move even though the new system had not been established.

Computers are not yet dealing with casework, so staff are still using paper files. Many files are being stored in an underground garage that staff cannot enter as it is considered a health hazards because of fumes from a car park above.

John Tincey, director of research for the Immigration Service Union, said last night: "The trouble is that the computer is not ready.

"We are trying to run a computerised system with no computers able to deal with individual paper files. People are still exchanging paper files around the office."

A Home Office spokesman said that 18,900 cases had been dealt with in December, and a similar number in January. The spokesman added. "Disruption was always expected but the system we are putting in will allow things to pick up. Problems have been greater than we anticipated."

STRANDED BY BUREAUCRACY

Chang Tsai-chen Wang is trapped in Britain because of the chaos that has engulfed the directorate and has no idea when she will next see her home in Taiwan. She cannot leave because her passport is with the directorate and is unable to confirm when it will be returned.

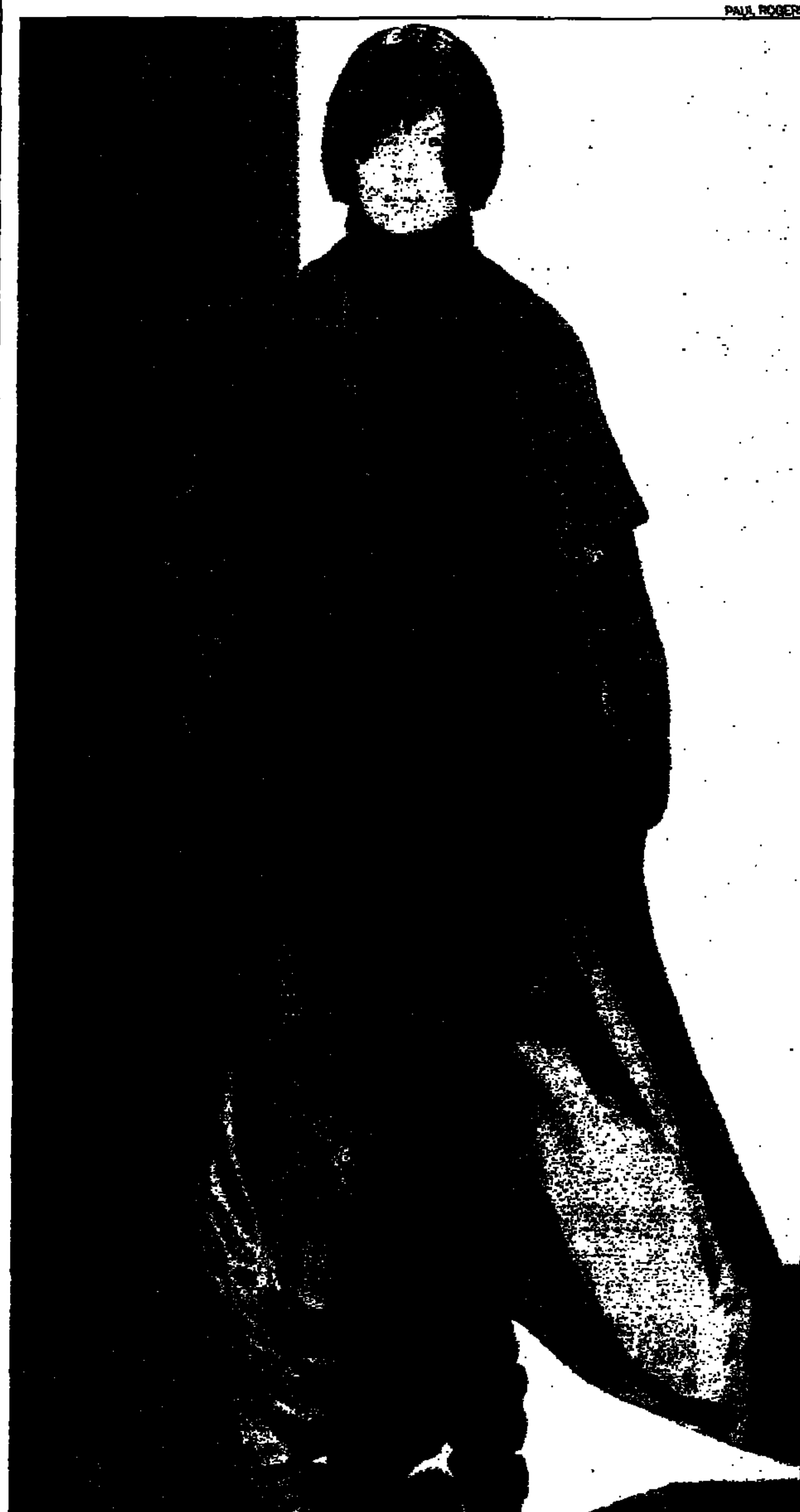
Mrs Wang, 73, has received no receipt from the directorate's office in Croydon that it has received her travel documents and has been unable to speak to anyone because the telephones are permanently engaged.

When Mrs Wang, who came to Britain for the birth of her granddaughter, visited the directorate, she was told that the only way to be sure of seeing an official was to return another day and start queuing at 5.30am.

Christopher Hughes, her son-in-law, said last night: "It is appalling that people should be treated in this way. Mrs Wang is unable to leave the UK and has no idea when she might be able to do so."

Dr Hughes, a lecturer in Chinese politics at Birmingham University, said: "The directorate is inefficient, stonewalls and has cut itself off from the outside world. Even Chinese bureaucracy would not treat people with such contempt."

PAUL ROGERS



Maria Grachvogel's designs were among those kicking off London Fashion Week



Elspeth Gibson: new looks and bestselling evening wear

Catwalks of London purr

By Lisa Armstrong, fashion editor

LONDON Fashion Week began in earnest yesterday, 24 hours after New York's ended. Early signs suggest that attendance, of both international press and buyers, is up on last season. The atmosphere is buoyant so far.

"I'm feeling very optimistic about showing here," Elspeth Gibson said after her show at the Senate House of London University yesterday morning. "Everyone we wanted to come was here."

Gibson's winter collection — her third on the catwalk — was polished and extremely desirable, with a mixture of those all-important directional pieces that keep fashion editors happy, and the beaded evening wear that has become a bestseller for her.

Key among the fashion-forward pieces were the A-line, mid-calf skirts that were all over New York. Gibson's were sliced in cashmere or moulded from stretch wools with lace inserts for day. Nighttime versions came in velvet and were trimmed with ruffles or crimson beads and all were teamed with Jimmy Choo's covertible fringed leather boots.

During the next few days, an "alternative" fashion show schedule, crammed with new, young talent, is taking shape alongside the official British Fashion Council timetable.

Three highlights of the off-schedule-schedule are Marcus Lupfer, Shelly Fox (who won the prestigious Jerwood prize two weeks ago), and Luella Bartley. Bartley, who when she isn't moonlighting as a designer, is a fashion journalist, describes the collection as "menswear on girls. You know, boxer shorts, men's shirting and boilersuits".

The ambience will be Fabulous-London-Casual; her friend Katie Grand, fashion director of Dazed and Confused, is styling the show and another friend, Steve Mackey of the band Pulp, has lent his flat for the presentation: Ralph Lauren it won't be.

Archer's son facing shares inquiry

Three City dealers known as the Flaming Ferraris have been suspended, reports Adam Sherwin


JULIAN SIMMONDS

Work hard, play hard: Adrian Ezra, second left, and James Archer, third left, on a night out among the Flaming Ferraris in West London

JAMES ARCHER, the high-flying son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, has been suspended from his job as a share dealer and faces questioning from the City watchdog over allegations of irregularities. The American investment bank, Credit Suisse First Boston, is investigating trades carried out by the 24-year-old Oxford graduate and two colleagues.

James Archer, David Crasanti and Adrian Ezra were hailed among the most successful share traders in the world after aggressive dealing tactics reputedly earned their firm more than £100 million last year. They are members of the so-called Flaming Ferraris club, named after their favourite post-work cocktail.

Now the bank has confirmed that the three were suspended last week and are the subject of an internal investigation. Trading records are being scrutinised for irregularities.

The team at the bank shared a bonus last year estimated at £5 million. The flamboyant Mr Archer — the youngest of the team — is reputed to earn £250,000, although rivals doubt this.

The Flaming Ferraris club specialises in complex share deals, often investing up to £3 billion at once, profiting from anomalies in the world's largest stock markets. Five of the team work in London while 11 others are spread around the world in Australia, Hong Kong, America and the Continent. They start work at 7am and hardly leave their desks until they finish 12 hours later.

They are run by Mr Crasanti, 34, a former wrestler and economic graduate from Princeton University. He is supported by Mr Ezra, a former Indian squash champion and Harvard graduate.

The team has a "work hard, play hard" ethos. Members recently held a pyjama party to celebrate their success at the end of last year, ordering caterers to bring vast amounts of whipped cream for a food fight. Mr Ezra is said to have taken just two days off in 1998. Most Friday evenings, members of the club can be found in the Nam Long Vietnamese restaurant in Old Brompton Road, West London, drinking their hallmark cocktails.

For their Christmas party, they hired a ten-seater stretched limousine to ferry them to Nobu, one of London's most expensive restaurants, in Park Lane. The three who have now been suspended were joined by the other members of the London-based team, Conor Campbell and Denis Albert.

Two of the five traders have girlfriends but one has said: "In this job you can only be married to your work." They come out to play on Friday nights, when they are joined by their colleagues who try to fly in from around the world. The night begins with several rounds of the rum-flavoured cocktail from which they took their name. A friend said: "They earn very good money but they are not flash. They are certainly not playboys or cowboys but when they go out to let their hair down they are just like any other group of young men. They are all very conscious that they do not behave in a way that would harm the bank."

Mr Archer attended Eton before reading chemistry at Oxford. He is is said to have first shown his business skills at college where he set up a company selling T-shirts to help fund the work of drug rehabilitation centres. He was a model student during his first year, defiantly stating: "I don't smoke, drink or take drugs." Within a year, he had become a leading light in the Assasins, Oxford's most decadent drinking society.

After leaving Oxford, he studied economics at Stanford University, California. He shares his father's London penthouse suite overlooking the Thames during the week and spend weekends with friends in the country.

Neither James Archer nor his father were available for comment yesterday.

CSFB announced the suspension in the same month that the multimillion-pound bonuses would have been confirmed. The Flaming Ferraris were planning a huge party to celebrate their awards.

The Securities and Futures Authority is also understood to be involved in the investigation, although it declined to comment.

Dobson to oversee selection of NHS executives

By Mark Inglefield and Ian Murray

FRANK DOBSON plans to oversee the appointment of all NHS chief executives as part of a drive to create a new superclass of health professionals.

The Health Secretary told *The Times* that he personally wants to scrutinse the CVs of shortlisted candidates and in some cases meet them before anyone is appointed. The move threatens to bring him into direct conflict with health authorities and hospital trusts.

Chief executives of hospitals earn on average £75,000 a year for handling budgets in excess of £100 million. Mr Dobson has been openly critical of the performance of some trusts, and has threatened to discipline any that fail to keep to his economy and waiting list targets.

Any effort to intervene in the process of selecting executives threatens to sour relations with hospital trusts and health authorities, who for the past 50 years have been able to appoint their own heads.

"If the minister is going to do this it amounts to a political process," said Karen Cairnes, director of the Institute of Health Service Management. "Ministers should not be involved in the appointment or promotion of public servants and there have to be safeguards to prevent this happening. It is essential that there is a distancing between politicians and public servants."

She said that the institute backed moves by Sir Alan Langlands to ensure that high, uniform standards were maintained by external assessors, but that "I can see no role for Mr Dobson in doing that".

It would require a change in the law for the Health Secretary to be able to appoint NHS chief executives, and he told *The Times* that his hands-on approach was meant to complement rather than replace the existing system.

He would look at only the most senior posts, but said: "Given the importance of these jobs it is only right that I am involved".

'Time to end Irish exile'

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to end the exile of hundreds of people driven out of Northern Ireland by paramilitary groups during the Troubles is to be launched in London and Dublin this week.

The IRA and the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force have halted their "punishment" attacks after public condemnation, and a group of 40 prominent figures will now seek to stop the paramilitaries' equally barbaric practice of ordering people to leave the province.

"People power stopped the beatings and can now persuade paramilitary groups to end the misery of hundreds of people who have been driven out of their homes," said Harry Barnes, a senior Labour MP who heads the cross-party peace group New Dialogue.

He intends to raise the issue in Parliament this week and has the support of David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister; Lord Fitt, former leader of the nationalist SDLP; and several other MPs.

The Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror claims that 64 people, including 15 families, were exiled by loyalist and republican paramilitaries in January alone. As many as 18 more have had to leave this month. They are usually given 24 or 72 hours to get out.

Supporter of GM rebel recants

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A LEADING supporter of Arpad Pusztai, the scientist who claimed that genetically modified potatoes were dangerous and sparked the current GM food controversy, has changed his mind.

Maarten Chrispeels, Professor of Biology at the University of California in San Diego and one of the few specialists originally to back Dr Pusztai, now says he finds his claims "extraordinary". Dr Pusztai has been suspended from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen. In an e-mail to other scientists debating the issue, Professor Chrispeels says: "A mountain of scientific evidence and data would be needed to convince me that this claim is correct. Considering how widely accepted and widely used plant transformation is after 15 years of intensive research, one would need to have rock-solid evidence to conclude that the entire procedure is flawed, and that a ban on genetically modified organisms, or the use of GMOs in food, is called for."

In a separate development, Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, defended Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, who, it emerged, had made a loan to a biotechnology company. Mr Rooker insisted there was no conflict of interest because Lord Sainsbury was "in no way involved in decisions related to genetically modified foods".

☐ Genetically modified crops could be banned north of the border as Scottish politicians put the new Edinburgh parliament on a collision course with the Government. The Scottish National Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have pledged to work together to impose a moratorium on commercial production of GM crops until they are proven to be safe.

هكذا من الأصل

British dealers say the 'royalty' will damage a market worth £2.2bn and destroy jobs

New sales tax causes furore in art world

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A TAX that will delight artists and appal dealers and auctioneers will be approved by the European Commission this week.

The "droit de suite" tax, which is expected to be voted through on Thursday, means that royalties will be paid to an artist or their family or estate every time a work is sold for up to 70 years after their death. The percentage is yet to be agreed but is likely to be between 2 and 5 per cent of the work's price.

Artists argue that they deserve to benefit from their work but the art trade says that it fears a destruction of the £2.2 billion market, with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

The trade has long campaigned against the European Commission's efforts to harmonise the art market across Europe with a tax on sales but the directive is likely to be adopted next year after being voted through.

Dealers and auctioneers say that works will be sent for sale to America and other countries where the tax is not imposed, diminishing London's standing as an international art centre.

The artist's viewpoint was put by Rachel Duffield, chief executive of the Design and Artists Co-operative Society, a non-profit national collecting society for the visual arts. "Nobody has taken into account the artists. Everyone [in the trade] is decrying it, but artists are behind it."

It is a royalty, she said, not a tax, and is likely to affect anything that the trade describes as an original work of art. The exact definition of what sales will be taxable — for example, if crafts and manuscripts should be included — is among issues to be decided.

Unlike photographers or illustrators who earn a living from reproduction rights, artists creating unique pieces say that they cannot benefit from repeated sales. They are likely to have sold the works for a pittance before finding recognition.

Peter Blake, the pop artist, recalled selling several large paintings in the mid-1950s for less than £25. "They now sell for a great deal. It would be nice to have a part of that." One of them, a collage, is to be auctioned by Christie's, South Kensington, on March 4. It is estimated to fetch up to £8,000.

The younger generation would particularly benefit, artists say. Most are living on the breadline, with Damien Hirst and Rachel Whiteread among a few who make fortunes from their art. A recent Arts Council-funded survey found that 37 per cent earn less than £5,000 a year.

Anya Patel, 30, sold her *Silent Screams* in 1993 for £1,500. Two years later, it had been resold for £6,500: "It's more than painful. It's just disrespectful and lacks justice."

Ms Patel, executive director of the European Council of Artists, said: "We are happy for dealers to make money, but not when artists are denied what is rightfully theirs. It's fat cats lining their pockets."

Rene Gimpel is, unusually, a leading dealer who sides with the artists. Yesterday, he accused his colleagues of being "selfish and absurd" in resisting such a tiny percentage.

The tax was introduced in the 1920s, in France. Eleven states have it now; among those who do not are Ireland, The Netherlands and Austria.

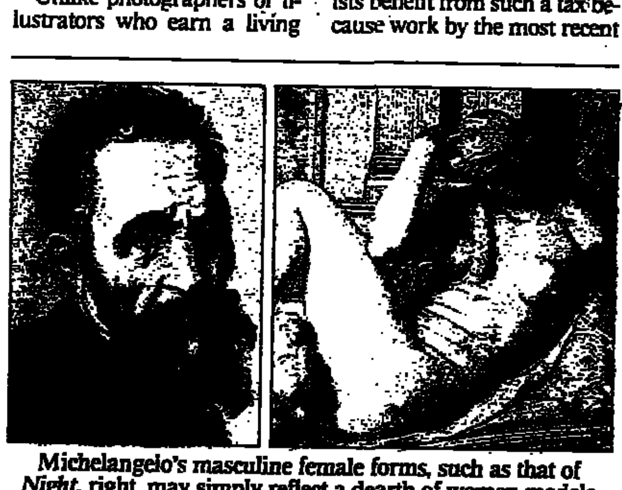
Anthony Browne, chairman of the British Art Market Federation, is among those who say that generally only the heirs of the most successful artists benefit from such a tax because work by the most recent painters and sculptors is not being resold as much.

Leslie Waddington, a London dealer and fervent opponent of the tax, said that in France only £5 million was collected in droit de suite in 1996: "That money went to six or seven families." The biggest beneficiaries are the estates of Picasso and Matisse, who least need it, say the critics.

That view was contested by Jean-Pierre Manguin, whose grandfather, Henri Manguin, was an artist and close friend of Matisse. Manguin's works sell for between £1,000 and £100,000. His grandson said that the money received from the tax was vital to his family.



Anya Patel in her studio: a picture she sold for £1,500 was resold two years later for £6,500. "It lacks justice," she said   Photograph: Richard Pohle



Michelangelo's masculine female forms, such as that of *Night*, right, may simply reflect a dearth of women models

Michelangelo was not gay, says scholar

BY DALYA ALBERGE

THE widely held assumption that Michelangelo was homosexual is being challenged by a leading scholar.

James Beck, a specialist in Renaissance art at Columbia University, believes that the master was simply more passionate about art and his family than sex.

"The skimpy evidence that survives suggests that Michelangelo — whether through disinclination, restraint, shyness, conviction or fear — held his libido in check and that he had few, if any, sexual experiences," Professor Beck said. "The contention that Michelangelo was a homosexual, closet or otherwise ... is without solid historical support."

Michelangelo has long been a gay icon, along with Shakespeare and other historical figures about whose sexuality little is known. For more than a century, Professor Beck said, historians have alluded to him being homosexual, primarily because of the masculation of his female subjects and suggestions of homosexuality that were made during his lifetime. Professor Beck expects to be pilloried by the gay lobby over his theory.

His study of the artist's life and work, *Three Worlds of Michelangelo*, is to be published by Norton on April 21. Professor Beck's research involved extensive study of letters in the artist's hand which suggest that, beyond his dedication to his work and devotion to his father and four brothers, Michelangelo "may have avoided starting a family out of distaste for the sexual act".

Professor Beck sees Michelangelo, who never married, as a "highly family-orientated person" and one whose sexual prudence may have been caused in part by a fear of contracting syphilis.

The artist, he said, "had young men friends", but accusations of homosexuality made during his lifetime were those of a malicious contemporary whose commission Michelangelo had rejected. Michelangelo's pupil and biographer, Ascanio Condivi, noted that "obscene thoughts never issued from him".

Professor Beck said: "The fact that he admired and rendered marvellous images of young men cannot be used as evidence of latent or real homosexuality, nor, for that matter, can the masculation of his woman subjects."

At the time of Michelangelo's life, Professor Beck said, female models were rare and artists tended to use classical statues for reference. "Michelangelo never drew a nude woman from life, basing his renderings on males, usually his studio boys, as was customary," he said.

"Gays will be angry," Professor Beck said yesterday, "But I'm just weighing up the evidence."



but struggling artists accuse them of being greedy in opposing long overdue reform





Matisse's *The Dance* and, right, *Still Life 1920* by Dorothy Hepworth. When the French picture was auctioned for Fr8.4 million in 1995, the family profited by Fr252,000. The British artist's estate receives no benefit from sales of her work

WINNERS AND LOSERS

THE estate of the French master Henri Matisse (below) is among the few main beneficiaries of droit de suite, although his most important — and expensive — works have tended to be sold in countries such as Britain and America, which have so far resisted such a tax. The record world price for a Matisse stands at £8.7 million.

Among the few major works to have been sold in France, where a droit de suite tax operates, was his watercolour *The Dance*: it was auctioned in 1995 for Fr8.4 million and the estate received Fr252,000.

A spokeswoman said that although the estate, whose president is Matisse's grandson, Claude Duthuit, is not reliant financially on droit de suite, it is vital in supporting



less prominent and poorer artists and their families: "It is important to help artists who have not had success."

Commenting on warnings from the British trade that droit de suite benefits only a few, she said: "They are thinking about what they themselves are losing."

THE family of Dorothy Hepworth (1894-1978), who is also known as Patricia Preece (below), has watched helplessly as others have benefited from the sales of her paintings.

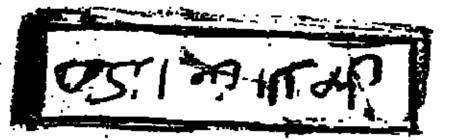
Christine Hepworth, whose father was Hepworth's cousin, struggles to make a living with odd jobs, includ-



ing gardening. She is in her fifties and suffers from arthritis.

Yesterday, she welcomed the possibility of financial help, however small. A percentage of still-lifes that sell for £2,500 to £3,500 and of portraits that fetch up to £5,000 could make life a little easier. "Anything like that will help me no end. One would certainly like to see some of the money coming into one's pocket. It gets a bit hairy, financially."

She said that seeing the works sell for sizeable sums has been painful. The money raised from a studio sale soon after Hepworth's death totalled the cost of just two paintings today: "No one was interested in the works then and we didn't have the space."



Top marks for small primary schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS too small to be included in tomorrow's league tables of primary test results are outperforming their larger counterparts, according to a government analysis.

A report by the Department for Education and Employment on two years' results shows schools with ten candidates or fewer achieving 9 per cent better scores than the rest. Small schools were three times more likely than others to have all their 11-year-olds at the level expected for their age in English, mathematics and science.

More than 14,000 primary schools will be included in tables of national curriculum test results. But about 1,500 will not have their results published because they are so small that individual pupils could be identified.

The analysis, carried out last year, covers 1996 and 1997. But Mervyn Benford, co-ordinator of the National Association for Small Schools, said he expected the pattern to be repeated in later results.

A report to be published shortly by the Office for Standards in Education is expected to confirm the advantages of small schools. Inspectors found that high teaching standards, good behaviour and a positive attitude to learning compensated for the superior facilities in larger schools. Supporters of small schools hope that the reports will act as a counterpoint to the continuing string of closure proposals by local authorities anxious to cut costs and remove surplus places in the education system.

The national association has helped to resist closures in Salford, Surrey and Windsor in the past year, but more are in the pipeline despite ministers' assurances that village schools will not be closed if children would have to travel unreasonable distances as a result.

The latest dispute is over the 100-pupil Saul Primary School, near Gloucester. The parish council is opposing plans to bus children several miles to a neighbouring village, but Gloucestershire education authority wants to close the school next year.

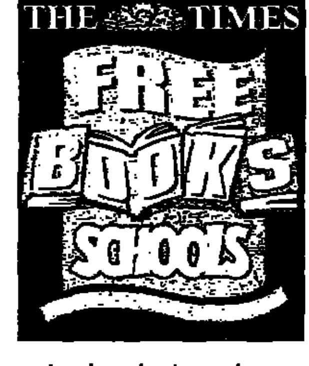
Mr Benford said: "Village schools should be the centre of their community because they are often the only public building left in the area. The results show that they work educationally and that mixed-age classes are not a disadvantage.

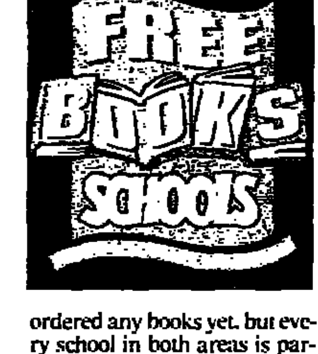
"A number of authorities are experimenting with innovative schemes to make small schools financially viable. In Dorset, a federation of four schools is run by a single governing body, while in the Forest of Dean two schools in neighbouring villages are being replaced by a new school with community facilities."

The association, founded 20 years ago to combat a wave of closures, is acquiring a growing membership in towns.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES
National curriculum test results for primary schools in your region

Big effort from small districts





THE top ten counties quickest off the mark in dispatching orders for *The Times Free Books for Schools* scheme are announced today (Hannah Betts writes). Large counties with the most schools are leading the way. The West Midlands heads the list with twice as many books ordered as anywhere else — 2,645 books and 469,250 tokens.

Smaller districts may be unable to compete in terms of volume, but they are among the most commited. The islands of Skye and Uist may not have ordered any books yet, but every school in both areas is participating — three schools on Skye and the three shared between the Isles of Uist.

All schools will get a helping hand this week as *The Times* is printing double tokens.

Today's tokens, page 16



Girls from Newmarket Rugby Club's under-16 team will be among those with the opportunity to display their skills in the Millennium Youth Games

Girls get a sporting chance to shine

BY MARK HENDERSON

HUNDREDS of girls' football and rugby teams are to compete in a prestigious national sports festival for youngsters to mark the Millennium — while boys are forced to stand on the sidelines.

The traditionally male preserves of rugby and football are among eight sports that will make up the Millennium Youth Games, launched today by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, and Sally Gunnell, the Olympic hurdler; yet most boys will not be allowed to take part.

The football tournament is limited to girls and children with learning disabilities, while boys can play rugby only at under-11 level — and even then in mixed-sex sides. A netball competition will also be girls-only, while hockey, athletics, swimming, basketball and tennis will give both sexes a chance.

More than 300,000 children under 15 are expected to take part in the £4.3 million games next year, part of the £100 million Millennium Festival that will be announced today by Mr Smith. The games are being organised by Sport England, until recently the Sports Council for England, and are partly funded by BAA, a sponsor of the Millennium Dome.

Boys have been left out of the football and rugby competitions because organisers believed that girls needed a stage on which to prove their skills at these male-orientated sports. Both have become increasingly popular among girls, with more than 3,000 girls' football teams in Britain.

Anita White, director of development at Sport England, said: "There are lots of leagues, cups and competitions — almost too many — for boys to play in, but what we are hearing all the time is that girls want to play but don't have the opportunity. We are giving them a chance to shine and show that they can play football and rugby to a very high standard as well."

Helen Ames, national youth development officer at the Women's Rugby Football Union, said the games would deliver a massive boost to women's rugby. "It is going to be a tremendous competition that will give girls a chance to play rugby as never before," she said.

The Millennium Youth Games will be one of the main projects in the Millennium Festival, which is designed to ensure that all parts of the United Kingdom can participate fully in the celebrations. Mr Smith said on GMTV yesterday: "I want to make sure that the Millennium is something to celebrate everywhere. I sometimes get annoyed with the national press that they seem to think that the only thing happening for the Millennium is the Dome in Greenwich. That's going to be wonderful but there's a lot else happening as well."

... and boys wanted to revive award scheme

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

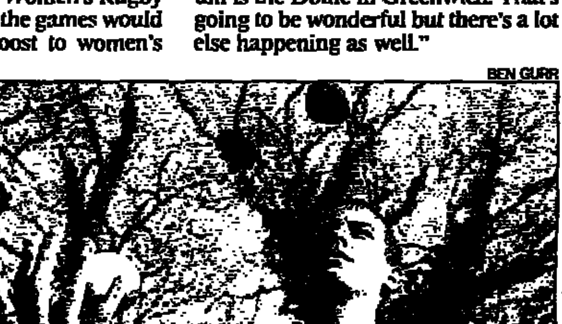
THE rules of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are to be changed to make it more attractive to boys. Girls now account for more than 52 per cent of entrants, and win 55 per cent of awards obtained under the scheme, which is open to 14 to 25-year-olds.

Vice-Admiral Michael Gretton, director of the scheme, said that there was concern that boys were dropping out or not joining at all because they thought the scheme was "not cool". He said: "We found that girls were more determined, persistent and dogged than boys. This is partly because, between the ages of 14 and 16, girls tend to be more mature and focused. Boys often reject formal education at this stage and our rules might seem inflexible and too formal for them."

The scheme was started in 1956 to foster leadership, self-discipline, enterprise and perseverance. To qualify for an award, candidates had to complete four sections: service (usually in the community), skills, physical recreation, and expeditions. After two years, an award for girls was started with an emphasis on domestic skills: the two awards were later merged. There are now up to 100,000 entrants every year.

Vice-Admiral Gretton said that research by the organisers found the skills section to be the biggest obstacle for boys. To pass it, candidates must devote at least an hour a week to a subject on a prescribed list. They must do this for six months to gain a bronze award, 12 months for a silver, and 18 months for a gold.

Under new rules, entrants will be able to choose any skill that is approved, and need only practise it for three months. Vice-Admiral Gretton said the organisers wanted the scheme to be "more what the entrants want it to be, rather than what we tell them it should be".



BEN GURR

Paul Angell, who learnt to juggle for his silver award

Paul Angell, 16, of Slough, chose cactus-growing as his skill for his gold award, having learnt to juggle for his silver award. "I didn't want to do something boring," he said. "I have had to research all about my plant and look after it." In his opinion, girls "are more conscientious than boys: they are more organised".

☐ Details of the scheme can be found on the Internet on www.theaward.org

Leading article, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scandal 'could kill Olympics'

Michael Payne, the marketing director of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday that the "cash for votes" crisis was "very serious and will have the potential to be fatal" if the committee does not take decisive action next month.

Mr Payne, who met the Games' top 11 sponsors in New York ten days ago, described the committee's meeting in Lausanne on March 17 and 18 as its "most important in the past 20 years". It will vote on the recommended expulsions of five members implicated in the report on how Salt Lake City was chosen for the 2002 Winter Olympics. It will also be asked to change the selection voting system.

Case dropped

Court-martial proceedings against five members of the Royal Green Jackets accused of a racist attack have been dropped. The Ministry of Defence said a prosecution witness was absent, and four of the five had left the Army.

DNA crime lab

The Forensic Science Service will this week open a centre to cope with hundreds of unsolved cases reopened because of advances in DNA profiling. About 50 people will work at the unit in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Climbers injured

Two climbers are recovering after falling in separate incidents in the Cairngorms. Raymond Newby, 31, from Middlewich, Cheshire, was airlifted to hospital in Inverness, where the other man, who has not been named, is also being treated.

Rail inquiries

John Reid, the Transport Minister, is to send inspectors to ask passengers what they think of privatised rail services. He said that those companies that were not performing had "no future in the industry".

Victims' anger

Survivors of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster met in Liverpool to discuss legal action against solicitors who represented them in claims against the police. They say poor legal advice led to compensation payments that were too small.

Infants 'at risk'

Newborn babies are being treated with untested drugs, said a paediatrician. Professor Imti Choonara of Derbyshire said that babies were often given untried drugs and higher dosages than recommended of other medicines.

British girls, 15, 'raped' on US school ski trip

BY GILES WHITTELL IN MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA, AND TIM JONES

TWO British girls allegedly raped during a school ski-ing holiday in America were being comforted by their parents last night. The girls, both aged 15, said they were plied with alcohol and drugs and assaulted during a party at the Mammoth Lakes resort in California.

The chairman of the governors at their Midlands grammar school said an investigation would be launched to establish how the girls could have been placed in such danger when under the supervision of teachers.

"What happened out there is a staff nightmare, a parents' nightmare and indeed everyone's nightmare," he said. "The girls must be exhausted and worried, and we hope to provide them with all the help they need. It really has been a traumatic experience."

He confirmed that the girls were among a party of 120 pupils from the school, and had not been travelling separately.

When the children and staff arrived at Heathrow yesterday aboard a scheduled Virgin Atlantic flight from Los Angeles they were met by police, who escorted them via a rear exitto coaches which took them home. Staff refused to speak to reporters, other than to say they had been told not to comment.

The girls are understood to have been raped on Tuesday after being taken to a party in a flat by boys they met at Grumpy's restaurant, a fashionable meeting place in the resort, about 200 miles from San Francisco.

Jim Gustafson, of the Mammoth Lakes police, said that the girls spoke of several juveniles and young adults being at the party, where they had been served alcohol and offered marijuana. The two were in a "very, very distressed state" when they made their complaints.

He added: "The victims told the officers they became intoxicated to the point where they were allegedly sexually assaulted by two other partygoers. The girls were able to show the officers where the party was, which led to the identification and arrests."

Two males, Paul Klesic, 18, and a juvenile aged 17, were charged with having sex with a victim too intoxicated to give consent.

Mr Klesic was also charged with having sex with a minor and with another serious sexual offence.

The pair — from Santa Monica — face severe penalties even if not convicted of rape, since the age of consent in California is 18.

Mammoth Lakes, California's only major ski-ing area south of Lake Tahoe, draws thousands of weekend visitors and at the time, was winding down after the long President's Day weekend.

Perched on the Sierra Nevada's east flank, it is being developed by the owners of British Columbia's Whistler resort as an international destination to rival Vail, in Colorado.

British package tourists flying into and out of Los Angeles, usually with Virgin Atlantic, already account for a large part of its midweek business.

It is not yet known whether the girls will have to return to testify against their alleged assailants.

Last night the Foreign Office said: "We have contacted the consulate in Los Angeles, but cannot confirm anything until we have spoken to both the girls and their families."



CHRIS BACON / PA

A shipwright works on Ireland's millennium flagship, the *Jeannie Johnston*

Irish join forces to build replica famine flagship

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A BIG millennium project replicating a ship which transported people fleeing the Irish famine was today put under wraps until it is ready to set sail for America.

After months of open-air work, the *Jeanie Johnston* was covered up for the team of young workers to complete the work in time for its launch next spring.

More than 200 people from both sides of the Irish border and the political divide have been involved in constructing the 123ft-long, three-masted barque in Tralee, Co Kerry, on the southwest coast of Ireland. "We're building a flagship for Ireland," John Griffin, the project secretary, said.

"Travel abroad has been part of our history. There are 44 million people of Irish descent in America and Canada. We hope the *Jeanie Johnston* will bring a message of good wishes from a peaceful Ireland."

The *Jeanie Johnston* has come to symbolise the massive wave of emigration which accompanied the potato famine of 1845 to 1848. Out of a population of eight million, an estimated two million people died of starvation and disease and another two million boarded ships for North America.



How the replica, under construction, will look

Unlike the infamous "coffin ships", where dozens of those emigrating died during their passage, the *Jeanie Johnston* lost none of her passengers to disease or the sea.

Mr Griffin said: "It was a unique ship, a remarkable ship with a remarkable safety record and it has a very long folk tradition. Numerous songs and poems make note of the *Jeanie Johnston*. It was a success story.

"All the emigrants on board the *Jeanie Johnston* reached America and Canada. They were survivors. We are remembering them, this is a celebration of survival."

Big Apple's bad apples will lose cars

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, extended his "zero-tolerance" policing to drink drivers last night by authorising the police to seize the cars of anyone who fails a breathalyser test.

From midnight, police officers had the power to confiscate vehicles from drivers at the roadside if the driver's blood alcohol level was found to be above the legal limit of 0.1 per cent.

The driver will be able to get the car back only if acquitted of the criminal charge of "driving while intoxicated" — and even then the authorities may try to retain it with a civil action.

"This will be a very, very useful way to reduce even more the number of traffic fatalities in the city," Mr Giuliani said. "If you've had even one drink, you should find somebody else to drive your automobile or you should stay where you are, or use public transportation."

The new rules, the strictest in the United States, were hailed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a lobby group of relations of car crash victims. But civil libertarians denounced the law as draconian and promised that they would challenge it in court. The New York Civil Liberties Union said that it was unconstitutional for the police to have so much power to decide on punishment.

Mr Giuliani's "zero-tolerance" policy, which has been spectacularly successful in cutting crime, has come under increasing attack recently after the death of an unarmed Guinean immigrant who was shot 41 times by a squad from the city's elite "street crimes" unit.

With Hillary Clinton considering a bid for New York's open Senate seat next year, however, the Republican mayor is pressing on with his politically popular crackdown on crime to position himself as a possible opponent.

Bride killed in air crash

Sydney: A woman in her white bridal dress was killed on the way to her wedding in a weekend helicopter crash. The pilot, who also died, was thought to have been the groom's brother, emergency services said.

The Bell 426 helicopter hit power lines and crashed in a remote area about 18 miles from the town of Holbrook near the New South Wales border town of Albury. *(AFP)*

Tyson hurls TV in jail rage

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

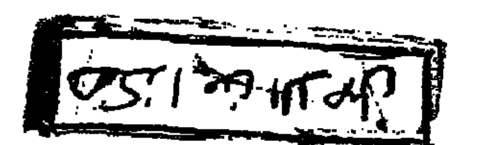
MIKE TYSON, serving a jail sentence for attacking two motorists, has been isolated from other prisoners after a violent tantrum in which he hurled a television set.

The incident could further jeopardise his hopes of boxing again. The volatile former heavyweight champion will face a disciplinary hearing today over the explosion of rage.

"Mr Tyson was going through some problems on Friday night. Obviously he was pretty upset over something," said a spokesman for the Montgomery County jail in Maryland. "He threw a TV. He threw it against some bars with people on the other side."

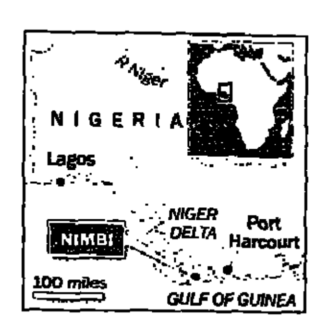
The spokesman said that nobody had been injured, but Tyson was remanded to the prison segregation area where the prisoners spend most of the day in their cells. "He's been generally compliant and reasonable until this incident," the official said. The 32-year-old fighter received a one-year jail sentence this month for punching a 60-year-old man in the jaw and kicking a 50-year-old man in the groin last August after a minor traffic accident.

The prison said it had a range of penalties it could impose on Tyson, but the greatest threat is likely to be to his hopes that his sentence could be reduced for good behaviour which would have allowed him to resume his career.



Nigerian tribes cut oil lines

FROM SAM KILEY IN NIMBI WEST NIGER DELTA



A THICK rainbow film of oil covered the water in the creeks leading to a Shell oil pipeline through the mangroves. At the source of the spill, a hole in the line to well head 33, gas and crude oil boiled to the surface coating tree roots in tar, choking oxygen from the water, and creating a petrochemical stench for miles around.

"You see why we are prepared to fight and die? We have no alternative. If we allow things to continue like this, we will perish anyway," Magnus Diepreye, 27, an Ijaw tribal man, said. His colleagues have kidnapped several Britons and occupied oil rigs over the past few months in pursuit of their demands for a share of Nigeria's oil wealth, pumped from beneath their homes, farms and fishing areas. Hours by speedboat from the nearest town, deep inside the delta of the Niger river, the communities that live with Nigeria's vast oil reserves have seen none of the benefits, and most of the costs, of a resource that has turned successive military rulers of their country into multibillionaires, and left their people penniless.

As a senior official in Shell Nigeria admitted: "The delta is the Achilles' heel of Nigeria's future." He added: "These people are arming themselves. There will be no way that they could win, but no way the army could control the area, and that means they will be able to cut off all the oil, leaving the whole country without money."

Oil earns 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange and forms about 70 per cent of its gross domestic product. The Ijaw, Ogoni, and other communities of the delta have issued warnings that unless they see benefits from oil, none will allowed to be pumped from their land. Little has been done by the oil companies or the central Government to reduce pollution or develop the delta where fishermen say that their catches of fish have plummeted from producing a commercial surplus to below what they need to subsist.

"We are going to starve. Our fishing grounds have been poisoned," said John Imere, an elder in Ewelusuo village, part of the Nimbi community.

Bobo Brown, Shell's director of public affairs, himself an Ijaw, brought in to repair the company's dented image and improve community relations, agreed that the Ijaw were costing Shell two million barrels a month in lost production. But, he said: "When people's lives are at a discount, what they will do to you is anybody's guess. People are being crushed by the reality that there is no tomorrow."

Obasanjo poll triumph

RETIRED General Olusegun Obasanjo was confirmed as the frontrunner for Nigeria's presidential elections yesterday after his People's Democratic Party took an early lead in senatorial and national assembly polls (Sam Kiley writes). If the pattern is repeated on Saturday, when up to 40 million Nigerians vote to end 15 years of military rule, General Obasanjo will win with a large majority. But there will still be a healthy opposition in the parliament and senate.

What Gibraltar wants comes first, says Cook

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday sought to defuse tension with Spain over Gibraltar, but he told Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, that Britain would let nothing override the "democratically expressed wishes of the Gibraltar people".

The one-hour meeting in Luxembourg was the first between the ministers since Spain stepped up pressure on the British territory last month after a dispute over the seizure of a Spanish fishing vessel.

Mr Cook told the Spanish minister that tight new Spanish border controls with the Rock were "unacceptable in a modern-day Europe" and Britain could not accept a frontier clampdown imposed for political purposes.

The Foreign Secretary also rejected the bulk of a Spanish complaint to the European Commission that Gibraltar had failed to implement 66 European Union directives, mainly concerning financial services. Only eight directives had not taken effect there so far and they would be implemented soon, Mr Cook told the Spanish minister.

Both Madrid and London are seeking to lower the temperature in the dispute over Gibraltar as EU leaders embark on a bout of negotiations over reforms to the Union's future finances. Tension over the status of the territory and its 30,000 population has long marred Britain's attempts to forge an EU alliance with Madrid and disrupted EU business in a variety of areas. In the latest of these, Spain is blocking new rules on the right to inspect non-EU aircraft because it would apply to Gibraltar.

Tony Blair is expected to tackle the dispute over the colony with José Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, when the pair attend an EU summit near Bonn on Friday.

However, Madrid shows little sign of softening its new hard line, which is reminiscent of the attempts by the Franco regime to isolate the British colony with a clampdown on the frontier, sea transport and communications in the early 1970s.

The Brussels Commission is analysing protests from both Madrid and London that hinge on Britain's insistence on Gibraltar's status as part of the EU and Spain's reluctance to recognise this. The Commission has backed Britain in a dispute with Spain over the legality of Gibraltar-issued driving licences, but it has refused to criticise Spain for the draconian border checks.

ALESSANDRO DELLA VALLE



The Slexer family from London are flown to safety by helicopter from Grindelwald in the Swiss Alps as avalanche fears ended their holiday yesterday. But thousands of others remained trapped.

Britons saved from Alpine snow trap

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, Princess Caroline of Monaco and several hundred other people were flown from Austria, where cut-off holidaymakers had to rely on military airlifts of food after heavy snow and rain caused disruptions and threatened flooding across Europe. The country's major east-west railway was still closed yesterday.

About 13,000 tourists were affected by the risk of avalanches in the Paznaun Valley in Austria's Vorarlberg area. Another 3,500, hemmed in by heavy snow in Swiss Alpine ski resorts — including Grindelwald and Adelboden — paid to be taken out by helicopter. About 20,000 were trapped by snow, which has left resorts inaccessible by road or rail.

On Saturday, Inghams, the biggest British independent ski operator, used helicopters to take 50 to 60 holidaymakers in and the same number out of Ischgl, in Austria. The company has about 10,000 Britons on holidays in Europe.

Laurence Hicks, its sales manager, said the travel situation had eased with Friday afternoon's milder weather, when snow turned to rain. That had led to the reopening of the road to St Anton, Austria.

"The main danger now is avalanches, because of the milder weather," he said.

Switzerland remained on high alert after fresh snow overnight in the Alps.

The Swiss Army has evacuated several hundred residents from Alpine villages cut off for days, and flown in supplies to other areas.

Snow reports, page 39



LINKS

http://www.skiclub.co.uk/ — The Ski Club of Great Britain.
http://www.tradoc.fr/johs/webcams.html — "Webcams" showing time-lapse photographs from ski resorts.

Bonn signs up to 'Third Way' patter

INSIDE GERMANY

BY ROGER BOYES

Tony Blair's cadets proclaim the Third Way, Gerhard Schröder's ad-men market the "New Centre". Since both men are still looking for a coherent governing code, Bonn and London have found something to discuss around the dinner table. The first course is about to be served up: a joint appeal addressing issues facing the Centre Left.

The draft I have seen does not exactly hum with the excitement of a white-hot revolution and barely justifies the cross-Channel air fares of its authors, Bodo Hombach and Peter Mandelson.

It is, as expected, a rallying call for party modernisers and patter about left-wing supply-side policies, flexibility and equal opportunities rather than base egalitarianism, law and order (which in the English form has become part of the German political idiom) and innovation. A section on education and training is so swaddled in Third Way Speak ("investment in human capital") that I had to abandon it in mid-sentence to go for a walk with the dog. But then the document was not written for me.

It has two targets: foreigners who are to be persuaded of the universality of the Third Way and, at home, social conservatives who stubbornly cling to redistributive economics and the magical power of the state.

The foreign audience includes Danish, Swedish and Dutch Social Democrats who are seen as the most natural allies: open, market-oriented and reluctant to throw money at the unemployed. The domestic audience is old Labour and its German equivalent.

The message is clear: tribal or class-bound politicians are finished. Little wonder that Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, was so keen recently to hawk an article to the British press demonstrating that he was Blairite in spirit and in word; we are all modernisers now. Cynics say the "New Centre-Third Way" rhetoric is opportunism with a human face. If so, that face belongs to Herr Hombach who is Herr Schröder's right-hand man. It is sad that Herr Hombach has lost his direct counterpart, Mr Mandelson.

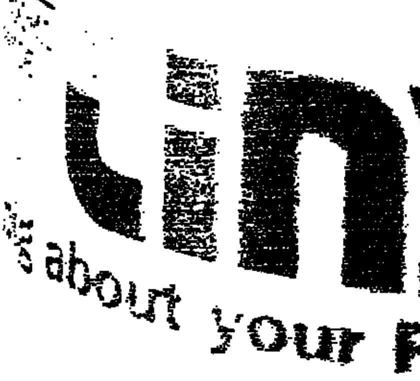
There were many parallels between them and, as their work on the Anglo-German Third Way project showed, they were an almost perfect match. Both are campaign strategists of shimmering brilliance. This strategic energy rather than their spin-doctoring talents placed them at the heart of the Third Way: and after winning the war they were required to win the peace. Both enjoyed the company of businessmen and were distrusted by unionists. Both understood that their authority derived from their leader and their key task was to unburden the leader of the detail of government.

The Hombachs and Mandelsons are most at home in presidential systems and so they try to lift their leaders above the daily quagmire and disconnect them from their ungrateful parties. In the past fortnight Herr Hombach has flown to Washington to devise a plan to compensate Nazi slave labourers, he has ensured that a German engineer will not be stoned to death in Iran and this week, no doubt successfully, will steer employers and unions into talks on an "alliance for jobs".

Herr Hombach has just come under attack for the way he financed the building of his home. When the ideological dialogue between Britain and Germany was entrusted to these two fixers it was plain that their true brief was to shape a new style of European politics. The preponderance of centre-left governments in Europe has only highlighted the lack of a coherent left-wing idea: the Right still has contours: the Left does not, except in certain political cultures such as the French.

British and German musings about the Third Way are aimed at marginalising French socialism as a factor in European politics. That is Germany's true interest in the Third Way debate: it is looking for ways to ease the corset of the Franco-German relationship.

However, Mr Mandelson's departure has taken some of the steam out of this process and it is just possible that the Anglo-German working group may peter out after the joint declaration has been published.



Doctors said to have cheated death

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MAGISTRATES in Venice have charged 454 doctors from the city and surrounding region with claiming state health payments for providing "treatment" to 15,000 dead patients, judicial sources said yesterday.

The scandal has also led to charges being brought against six regional health authority officials in the provinces of Venice, Treviso and Padua. According to the inquiry, doctors continued to claim a basic annual allowance of 70,000 lire (£26) for each patient and many charged for prescriptions or for making home visits. Some patients had died 15 years ago.

The Italian Order of Doctors blamed administrative delays in state bureaucracy for the affair, which has tarnished the image of a region that traditionally prided itself on the high quality of its health services.

"In the great majority of cases it was the fault of those who should have updated the list of patients," claimed Giuseppe Greco for the order. "A doctor does not necessarily know when his patient is dead. Cases of deliberate fraud will be very few indeed."

Police, fearing they have uncovered only the tip of an iceberg, will carry out similar investigations in other regions.

In Milan, meanwhile, investigators today are to interrogate consultants from the city's San Raffaele hospital who are suspected of having claimed millions of pounds for the treatment of patients admitted for minor ailments. Another 32 hospitals in Lombardy will be checked for similar abuses.

Birthday tirade renews doubts over Mugabe

Bitter President attacks whites, judiciary and press, writes **Jan Raath** in Harare

PRESIDENT Mugabe delivered an unbridled attack on Zimbabwe's whites, the judiciary, the press, and Western embassies in a television interview at the weekend that raises serious concerns about his ability to continue ruling.

In a 50-minute interview, broadcast on the eve of his 75th birthday, he again contradicted personal undertakings he has given to the International Monetary Fund that he will carry out legal and sustainable land reform.

Usually supremely self-confident, Mr Mugabe appeared unsure and was unsettled even by the untesting questions asked him by three heads of state-controlled media organisations.

Zimbabwean viewers saw for the first time an isolated, deeply suspicious and embittered old man. He refused to discuss the issue of his retirement, but indicated that he was far from ready to do so.

"Three years I have done, three years to go," he said of his six-year presidential term that expires in 2002. "When the moment does come, I will give my party notice."

"He cannot go on like this," said Mike Auret, the chairman of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, who has known Mr Mugabe since the Sixties. "Two public appearances in the last two weeks have been disastrous. He is totally out of touch. He is unable to accept any responsibility for what has gone wrong. To have focused all his ire on racist things is beyond understanding, but he doesn't have anything else."

Mr Mugabe began a sustained attack on whites almost as soon as the interview started. The political situation in the country "is good, in respect of the black community", he said. But whites were "trying to live in the Rhodesian past".

Saying that "there is a lot of clandestine activity by the white Rhodesian establishment across the world", he added, referring to the economic crisis: "That is why we have the present concerns. This is the fight. It's black and white, pure and simple."

He dismissed his black critics as "wearing the master's cap". He also accused embassies of Western governments providing aid for the country's newly influential labour movement of being "agents for subverting my Government".

He renewed his attack on the judiciary for demanding that he should make a public commitment to the rule of law, denounce the use of torture and promise to order an investigation into the illegal detention and torture by the military of two journalists last month.

He described the four judges who signed the petitions on behalf of the rest of the judiciary as "the gang of four". He said they should "pack up and go". When it was pointed out that he did not have the power to sack the judges, he appeared to be taken by surprise. "We have not looked into that," he said.

Minutes before the interview was screened, the Chief Justice, Anthony Gubbay, made a rare and apparently pointed appearance on the evening news bulletin. "Zimbabweans should observe human rights to prevent community disharmony, civil strife and anarchy," he said.

Mr Mugabe also reversed undertakings he gave personally to the IMF last month to withdraw plans to redistribute among blacks 841 white-owned farms that were confiscated provisionally in November. The promise was a condition for a resumption of financial aid that has been frozen for nearly four years.

Leading article, page 21



K.M. CHOUDARY / AP

Riot police remove a Jamat-i-Islami member protesting against the Lahore meeting

Leaders agree on nuclear tests

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

THE leaders of India and Pakistan, the world's newest nuclear weapons states, promised last night to try to reduce the risk of an accidental nuclear war and agreed to give advance warning of ballistic missile tests.

The Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers, after two days of talks in Lahore, also pledged to work towards a peaceful solution to outstanding issues, including those surrounding Kashmir.

Atal Behari Vajpayee travelled to Lahore on an inaugural bus service between the two hostile neighbours. One policeman was killed and several others were injured in clashes in the city between anti-Indian protesters and the security forces.

Saddam crushes Shia revolt

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has tightened security in Baghdad and other cities after the most serious anti-Government riots since a failed uprising by Shia Muslims after the 1991 Gulf War, according to dissidents.

At least 20 people were reported to have been killed in clashes after the assassination of the supreme religious leader of Iraq's Shia community, Grand Ayatollah Muhammed Sadiq al-Sader, who was shot dead with two sons in the holy city of Najaf on Friday.

"The people are beyond the stage of fear. It shows they are prepared to risk their lives to challenge Saddam," said Kawa Rashid, a spokesman for the Iraqi Communist Party, one of the more reliable opposition groups. Shia exiles said that 50 demonstrators had been wounded and another 250 arrested, including 15 prominent clerics.

Disturbances were said to have continued in several southern cities yesterday, among them Najaf and Karbala — at the centre of the 1991 uprising. Most violence was in the city of Nasiriyah, however, which was under siege by security forces after being shelled by artillery on Saturday when protesters briefly seized several government buildings.

Demonstrations in Saddam City, an impoverished Shia suburb of Baghdad, appeared to have been crushed within hours.

Hint of amnesty as Turkey halts offensive against Kurds in Iraq

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ANKARA AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TURKEY halted its offensive against the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in the mountains of northern Iraq yesterday, and urged young PKK fighters to surrender.

But it reserved the right to engage in "hot pursuit" in northern Iraq, where it said the PKK had taken advantage of a "vacuum of authority". Bulent Ecevit, the veteran Turkish Prime Minister, said the capture last week in Nairobi of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, had rendered further fighting by the PKK "futile". He predicted that all Turkish parties would back an amnesty after elections, due in April.

But in Iran, Hassan Ali, one of Mr Ocalan's chief lieutenants, mocked Mr Ecevit, saying: "Today is the day for Kurds to take up their weapons and strike against the Turkish state." Some commanders in the PKK, whose leadership is in confusion, are said to favour attacking seaside resorts to damage tourism.

Yesterday nearly 400 Kurdish activists were held after five policemen were shot and wounded while chasing protesters in Istanbul's Gazi suburb, a hotbed of Islamic extremism.

Israel warned Kurdish protesters yesterday that it would hit back hard against attacks in the wave of anti-Israeli demonstrations outside its European missions. In Bonn on Saturday, more than 7,000 Kurds, chanting "Israeli murderers", converged on the Israeli Embassy, where they were held back by riot police.

Kurds suspect that Mossad was involved in Mr Ocalan's abduction and despite denials, claim there is growing evidence that Israeli agents had monitored the PKK leader's calls and movements for months, if not years, and passed the information on to Turkey.

In protests elsewhere, more than 4,000 Iraqi Kurds marched on the United Nations office in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaimaniyah yesterday, where they burnt American, Greek, Israeli and Turkish flags. In Tehran, about 1,000 Iranian Kurds gathered outside the UN office, chanting anti-Turkish slogans. Smaller protests were held in other Iranian cities

In Ankara, Mr Ecevit and Ismail Cem, his Foreign Minister, continued to reject Western concerns over a fair trial for Mr Ocalan. Mr Ecevit said any attempt by "governments of foreign countries or the representatives of any international body to put pressure on our courts" would be "an unacceptable affront". The trial is likely to be held in April, just before Mr Ecevit stands for re-election.

Mortar blast message from Rambouillet ends lull in village battle



Anthony Loyd reports from Studencane, where observers are helpless to halt some of the worst fighting for weeks

THERE is a brief lull in the fighting, but it ends barely before there is time to sit down and light a cigarette. Commander Drini, a key Kosovo Liberation Army officer in the province, has just settled on an upturned crate, rested his assault rifle across his knees, and is poised to explain the hopes of war and peace, when somewhere near by a Serb heavy mortar crashes in.

His choice of temporary headquarters leaves much to be desired: a glass-fronted shop, which is packed with boxes of empty bottles. With the latest suck-thump-roar detonation, windows and bottles alike rattle like a trembling chandelier. "Oh, that was very nice," Drini laughs. "Greetings from Rambouillet." He could have hardly been more succinct. It is Saturday afternoon in Studencane, a small town 30 miles southwest of Pristina, the scene of a continuing clash between the KLA guerrillas inside and Yugoslav Army and special police units occupying positions in the fields and on the ridgeline to the east.

News of the extension to the Rambouillet peace negotiations has just reached the Serb troops and ethnic Albanian fighters. It has had not the remotest effect on the action. Commander Drini is an educated man. At 38, the former Yugoslav Army officer now with the Kosovans fighting for independence, speaks seven languages.

He commands the KLA's Pastrik Operational Zone. Incorporating just under 25 per cent of Kosovo, it is the largest of the seven into which the separatist fighters have divided the province.

Yet on the subject of peace, he speaks with the resigned fatalism of a soldier, summarising effectively the apparent impasse at Rambouillet. "There are two different situations here," he says. "The political situation is one thing; the military another.

"Someone has to implement some sort of agreement if we and the Serbs cannot. I'm ten months into this war and am not afraid to die, but there are too many women and children to die here too."

It is difficult to tell how this particular battle began. A small engagement just after dawn escalated throughout the morning and afternoon, sucking infantry, mortars and heavy machinegun fire into the momentous dynamics of chaos that spreads across six points on the Studericane front.

Already several hundred ethnic Albanian civilians have been moved out by the KLA to safer areas to the north and southwest, fleeing in dismal and dejected columns over the mud and ice. From the comparative safety of the slopes above Studencane, two Kosovo Verification Mission vehicles are observing the fighting. It is the worst they have seen there for seven weeks.

They are in radio contact with both Serb and KLA commanders, yet when the fighting stops after nightfall, it is more of its own volition than thanks to the international observers.

Peace talks stall despite Kosovo 'breakthrough'

Serbs may agree a political deal but reject Nato troops, reports Tom Walker from Rambouillet

BELGRADE was still headed for confrontation with Nato last night despite what Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, described as a "remarkable breakthrough" in a near-agreement between Serbs and ethnic Albanians on a constitution for Kosovo at the Rambouillet peace talks.

Although President Milutinovic of Serbia said that his delegation was prepared to sign a political deal for Kosovo guaranteeing Albanian autonomy over a transitional three-year period, he insisted that his Government was still implacably opposed to any Nato force policing the new deal, at least in the near future.

According to Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, and her rather less gung-ho European Contact Group colleagues, that means cruise missiles will start crashing into Serb and Yugoslav military targets soon after the new Rambouillet deadline of 3pm tomorrow.

She and European diplomats were adamant that the Serbs would not be allowed to separate the political part of the Contact Group plan for an autonomous Kosovo from its military implementation, but Mr Milutinovic clung to the hope that opinions in the group were divided on Nato bombing.

On a dismal day of drizzle and low skies, the action around the château was minimal when compared to Saturday's theatre of frantic Contact Group meetings and French riot police razzmatazz.

Sodden reporters waited desperately for Ms Albright to make a dash for the town hall and a CNN interview — tame stuff in comparison to the previous afternoon when helicopters came and went, a Kosovo Liberation Army delegation was briefly arrested, one of their leaders claimed he had received death threats from the Serbian delegation, and Mr Milutinovic promised that if Serbia had its "hands untied" the guerrillas would be routed within days.

Outside appearances were deceptive, however. A Western official who passed through the Serb delegation's room said Mr Milutinovic and his team were furiously drafting proposed amendments to the military chapter they hate so much.

"They're not just sitting back and thinking, 'well, we'll be bombed'," he said. "They're working harder than they ever have before." But he added that room for manoeuvre was limited and that ideas floated by the Serbs over the weekend — that Nato could be replaced by a United Nations or OSCE-led force, or that thousands more unarmed monitors could be brought in — would not wash.

"Twenty-eight thousand troops is the figure worked out by Nato planners to do the job," he said. "There might be a bit of discussion about the badges they wear, but it absolutely has to be Nato-led."

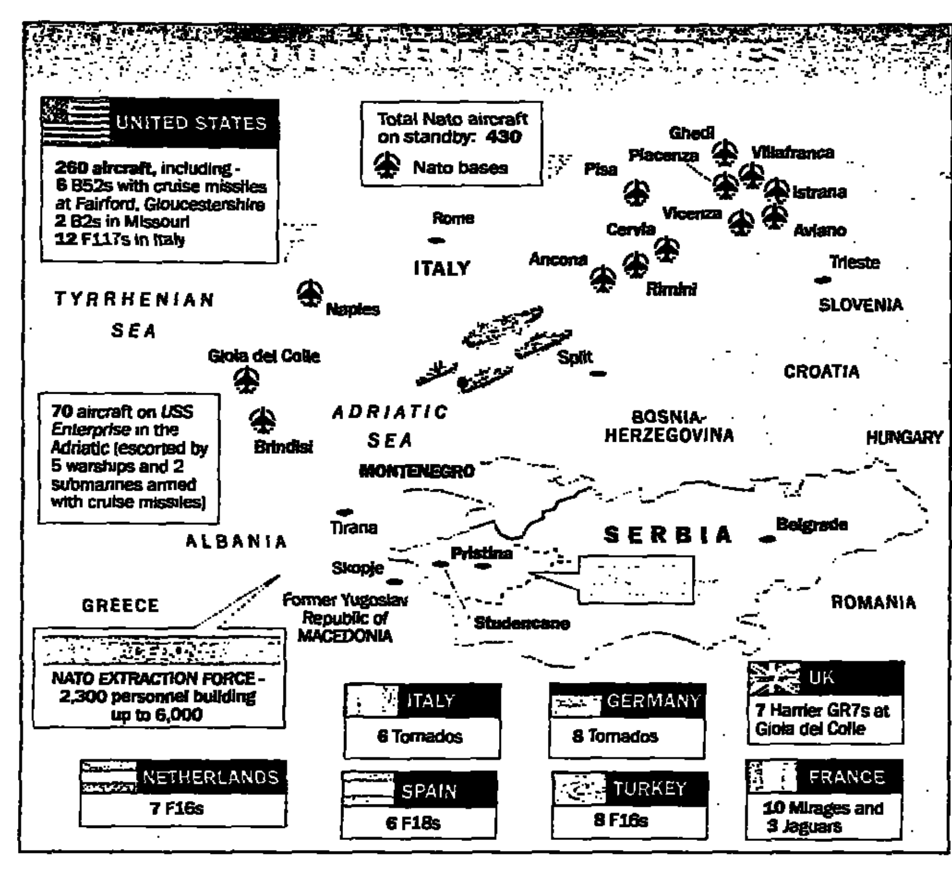
In a press conference that lasted until midnight on Saturday, the suave but menacing Mr Milutinovic questioned the logic of "so many foreign troops to chase terrorists".

Diplomats in Belgrade have depicted Mr Milutinovic as the fall guy of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia, predicting he will have the rug pulled from under him tomorrow when Mr Milosevic makes an about-turn on Nato involvement. But amid Mr Milutinovic's rhetoric of defiance on Saturday night, there was evidence to suggest the Serbs are already changing tack.

Mr Milutinovic said more time "may be needed to discuss implementation" if a new constitution for Kosovo is agreed. He added that he hoped Ms Albright was less keen on airstrikes than she might suggest; he detected "a discrepancy" between her personal understanding and State Department policy.

CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

A B52 flies over the Church of St John the Baptist at Inglesham on its way to Fairford



Bombers pile on the pressure

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE EDITOR

US AIR FORCE B52 bombers flew in to RAF Fairford yesterday to be on standby for Nato airstrikes against military targets in Serbia. Seven of the giant strategic bombers, each capable of carrying 20 Tomahawk cruise missiles, arrived at the Gloucestershire base from Barksdale, Louisiana.

One B52 will remain in reserve and the other six will be used in phased airstrikes, provided Nato sticks to its threat to bomb Serbia if Belgrade is seen to be responsible for obstructing a peace settlement for Kosovo.

The arrival of the bombers and another 51 American aircraft deployed from the United States to Europe, indicated President Clinton's determination to maintain maximum pressure on President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader.

A total of 430 Nato aircraft, including seven RAF Harrier GR7s, are on alert for possible airstrikes.

In addition to the B52s, five American surface warships and two attack submarines accompanying the US aircraft carrier, *USS Enterprise*, in the Adriatic, have Tomahawk cruise mssiles.

The last time B52s were sent to Britain was in October last year when Nato forces were once again preparing for airstrikes on Serbia.

On that occasion, the threatened air raids were called off when President Milosevic agreed to abide by the demands set by Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy, including the withdrawal of the majority of his forces from Kosovo.

British troops lead Nato units into border territory as guardians of peace

From Michael Evans
IN PADERBORN
NORTHERN GERMANY

NATO'S proposed peace implementation force for Kosovo, codenamed Operation Joint Guardian, will build up this week to an "early entry" advance guard of about 6,000 troops based in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, ready to move over the border if a settlement is signed.

Britain took a leading role yesterday, dispatching the first of more than 2,000 troops from RAF Bruggen in Germany to Skopje in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macdeonia. The Ministry of Defence is using eight Hercules and one giant Russian Antonov 124 military transport aircraft, chartered from a British company, to fly the troops to the region over four days.

The troops who left on the first flights, starting from 5am yesterday, included elements of the King's Royal Hussars, the Irish Guards, 4th Field Regiment Royal Artillery and 4th Armoured Brigade tactical headquarters.

The French, Italians and Americans were also promising to be in position in the area this week. Despite continuing difficulties at the peace talks in Rambouillet and the renewed focus on possible airstrikes on Serbia, the Nato machine, and in particular the British military element, has been in overdrive over the weekend to be ready for peacekeeping action as soon as the North Atlantic Council has given an "activation order".

At Paderborn in northern Germany, where the British Army has a combat manoeuvre simulation centre, troops have been put through intensive training.

Soldiers from the two British battle groups earmarked for the Nato Kosovo mission — Britain's 8,000-man contribution has been codenamed Operation Agricola — have been training on virtual reality computers which, with the help of satellite imagery and maps, replicate the precise terrain and driving conditions in Kosovo. Soldiers are able to drive up and down mountains by computer to give them an idea of the challenges ahead.

British soldiers bound for Kosovo are also being taught negotiating skills to handle confrontations with Serb or Kosovo Liberation Army units. Although local people are being recruited as Serbo-Croat and Albanian interpreters, the experience of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina showed how important it was for soldiers to be taught the right body language and facial expressions to help in defusing potential problems.

Over the weekend, soldiers from the 1st Battalion Irish Guards, watched by General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, who visited Germany to check on Kosovo preparations, practised unarmed combat routines, "for arrests using minimum force".

Soldiers from the Irish Guards who "missed out" on previous overseas operations, including the Falklands War in 1982, the Gulf War in 1991 and the Bosnia mission, said that they were eager to be sent to Kosovo to carry out the peacekeeping job.

'I'm cleverer than most men'

Former enfant terrible Julie Burchill, now 40, is still endlessly fascinated by the most important person in the universe — herself. But what was all the fuss about? Interview by **Noreen Taylor**

Julie Burchill doesn't do coke no more. She just sounds as if she does. Like a ticker-tape machine gone berserk, words gush out, punctuated by totally inappropriate wild spasms of giggling. Her squeaky babble is accompanied by perpetual hair-tugging, a nervous tic that makes you long to seize her hand and shout "*stop*".

Surely she should have done something about that voice by now? After all, who wants to sound like Minnie Mouse when they are 40? She is plump, pretty, with a fabulous skin despite decades of champagne, amphetamines and God knows what else. We meet in Brighton, where she has lived for some time, so that Julie can tell us about her latest novel, *Married Alive*.

"Sorry, s'not very good is it? Some people should be paid not to write another novel." Her words, not mine. Never mind, we won't dwell on the novel. Suffice to say that forcing your head down a Harpic-free lavatory bowl might prove a comparable experience. We sit in the Sussex Arts Club and she smirks: "Guess why you couldn't come to my house?"

Okay, why couldn't I visit your house?

"Cos it's all pink and gold with a swimming pool and bits of leopard print and you'll think it silly. But I love it."

Burchill is no stranger to an interviewer, so often has she spilled her guts. Deeply frustrated, unhappy, ambitious working-class *enfant terrible* runs away from Bristol. Joins the centre of youth universe (at the time, the *New Musical Express*) and meets fellow *enfant*, Tony Parsons. Marries Parsons, lives in Billericay, Essex, for four years. On a nine to five amphetamine-fuelled existence, she writes three slim books.

"Nuffink else to do, anyway," she explains. "Bed at dawn after working all night, then get up with the baby. No, I wasn't ever tired. Constitution of an ox, I have. Working-class blood royal. Parsons kept me there cos he knew I'd go off with someone if I went to London parties. Course I did. Met Cosmo first party I went to in four years. He was the Lothario of SW10 and totally besotted with me."

By then she had a three-year-old son, Bobby, and here is the bit that I find difficult to grasp on any level: she packs her bags and leaves the child behind. With new husband, the journalist Cosmo Landesman in tow, a set of black clothes and growing byline celebrity through her iconoclastic articles in *The Face* (Stalin was a great guy; Annie Lennox should have died in a plane crash; Margaret Thatcher's my heroine), Julie becomes the toast of Chatterersville.

Serious bucks begin to pour in: book deals, newspaper columns, screenplays. The launch party for her novel, *Ambition*, is held at the Ritz, where Julie sits on a flower-decked dais and various editors and interviewers are ushered up to the presence, one at a time, like serfs falling before a tsar. Her writing is as fresh, sharp and biting as a freshly squeezed lemon. Occasionally, it is bilge, although no one seems to mind. Newspaper executives who rarely venture beyond the Savoy Grill are waving chequebooks, desperate to buy up a columnist who shoots from the lip and who supposedly knows where it's at.

She won't do no TV neither, so that makes her even more exclusive. Hacks talk about her in whispers. She's the highest-paid journalist in the country and she does all her own housework. Apparently, she won't go to lunch with an executive unless a taxi, plus a secretary, arrives. She's scared of being on her own, you see.

ANDREW HASSON



Julie Burchill: "I don't become attached to things and I don't keep people close for too long. Seven years with me — after that you've squeezed all the juice out"

More shock headlines from media gulch follow. After 11 years, she leaves Cosmo, loses custody of her second son, Jack, and goes off with "the world's most beautiful woman", Charlotte Raven, another journalist. "But I'm not gay," she squeaks. "If you met Charlotte, you'd be very weird if you didn't fancy her, too." By now she's in Brighton, ditches Charlotte in favour of Charlotte's 25-year-old brother, which Charlotte forgives. So they remain best friends and are currently writing a sitcom for the BBC.

May I get personal here?

"Sure."

He's twentysomething and you're . . . well, how can I put it?

"My weight! I'd be down the gymnasium if I wasn't happy at home, wouldn't I?" she sniggers. "He can't keep up with me." Then she's off, talking about the most important person in the universe. "Listen, I'm lazy. I don't want to do what women of my age have to do to keep slim. If I could lose weight without walking round the block, without giving up one drink, one sweet, then I would.

"S'not like I'm gonna be no poster girl for fat people. Not like Dawn French. My idea of a great joke would be if Lenny Henry ran off with Kate Moss."

So why Brighton?

"Borders of Hove, actually, and it's a sort of retirement home, innit? I have my boyfriend at night and Jack at weekends. Live a really, really normal life. The life of someone whose children have left home. Don't go out much. Stay in with my boyfriend. Sounds pathetic, but you see, I packed so much in between the ages of 24 and 32 I'm way past my best now. And talent's finite. Writing peaks after 12 years. I read some of my old stuff now and it makes my eyes water. It was so good when most people were rubbish. Like female columnists now. Reminds me what it's like being at a dinner party with a crowd of beautifully groomed women who have nothing to say.

> I was one of the most important people in London once

"Anyway, trying to cling to what you had when you were young would be so tragic, horrible, and after a certain age ambition is horribly disfiguring to the character."

She writes for *The Guardian* now, a paper that she would have dismissed once as cage-liner for tosspot liberals. "They are the only ones who will have me," she admits brightly. "I was one of the most important people in London once. And London is like a village. People followed me round supermarkets so I had to leave, get away from the twitching lace curtains.

"Anyway, London's crap, a rat-run. Be a bit pathetic for me to go playing Queen of the Groucho Club with her Praetorian Guard like I did." For people, read tiny self-important circle of scribblers and PR people: She is endlessly fascinated by herself. "I'm odd. Odd background, odd parents. Paralytically shy when I first came to London. I knew it was make-or-break if I didn't become a more interesting person. So I remade myself through a massive act of will and became this snarling, switchblade punk girl who had people like Emma Soames begging me to write for them. Quite something having a member of the Churchill family sucking up to you. I'm tough, had to be. My parents tried to protect me by telling me that I was nothing and I would amount to nothing. That's why I'm so amazed when I hear middle-class parents telling their little bog-standard Imogens and Tims how wonderful they are.

> I was so good when most people were rubbish

"Nah, my parents never gave me confidence, didn't believe in education as a way out. That's a North of England, Scottish thing. They didn't want out. My Mum was happy in the cardboard-box factory. I know I go on about them, but I do love them."

Her father, a distillery worker, died recently. A good-looking man, union activist, lifelong communist, perhaps the template other men will never fit.

"Brilliant, my Dad. I thought nothing will ever hurt me as much again after he died. Thought I'd go mad with grief, like Ophelia."

Feeling as she does, it becomes even more difficult to comprehend her forsaking her children. But she sidesteps the question. It remains out of bounds and none of the analytical relish she smears on other areas of her life is applied.

"All I am going to say about this is that the day I lost custody of Jack was the saddest day of my life. Even worse than my father dying. With Bobby, I was half-formed, a child myself. I don't really know my first son. Came down and lived with me in Brighton for a year — his father didn't like that — and he still lives here.

"What's he think of me?"

She laughs off the question. "He probably thinks that I'm a bit of a plonker."

Any guilt?

After a withering look, she becomes bolshie. "It never occurred to me to ask them for forgiveness. I mean, when they grow up and they haven't made any mistakes, then they can tell me what to do."

What did her parents think?

"My parents were amazing grandparents, never reproached me. I realise now they backed off cos they were frightened I'd disappear, like I did when I was 15."

You don't like babies then?

"Sure, I love babies. I've got maternal instincts. Just prefer them when they get big and you can have sex with them." A knowing half-smile is followed by another giggling spasm. Playing daughter of the demon seed is one of her favourite roles. Except that the little voice and the constant hair-tugging dilute the impact, transforming the ramblings of a demented 40-year-old woman into the patter of a show-off child desperate to shock the adults.

"My background bred toughness. I've been bereft of things other people had. Didn't go to university, didn't have any old-boy network to media land, no one taught me to write. Don't mind though cos it worked for me. My husbands hated it when I wrote cos I used to kill myself laughing. I was so funny. They couldn't stand that it was so easy for me. Cosmo says I wrote in a trance. I'd sit down, black out and an hour or so later two-and-a-half thousand words would be there."

She says: "I'm so happy now, happier than most people. I'm living the life I dreamt of living when I was a little girl. See, most people don't like change. Terrified of it. They like their comfort food, comfort TV, comfort relationships. Me, I'm terrified of not changing. Don't give a damn about last week or the last century, prefer the modern world.

"No nostalgia, never homesick. Don't become attached to things and I don't keep people close for too long. Seven years with me, usually — basically, after that you've squeezed all the juice out by then.

"Men! I'm cleverer than most of the men I've met. But I'll never go out with a man of my own age. They go off men, you know, mentally."

Listening to Julie, one wonders what all the fuss was about. She describes herself as a rogue gene. Wiser minds might counsel five years of intensive psychoanalysis. She curls up, screaming in derision as I read out some of the opinions that once made her compulsive reading.

Like the fact that lesbians should be sent to concentration camps. "No, no, I couldn't have said that. Then there was the prolonged worship of Mrs Thatcher. Howls of laughter: "Apologies, apologies. I can only put it down to some drug-induced trance. I'm such a coward. I used to hide behind Cosmo in case I'd meet people I'd slagged off, like Claire Rayner. She came across the room one night waving her fist at me, shouting 'You little bitch'. And I'm, like, behind Cosmo cowering, whimpering, 'I'm not Julie Burchill. She's a terrible person'."

She relishes the awfulness that she has marketed so successfully: the little jeering, sharp-tongued chick in the playground whose idea of sport is maiming the vulnerable. "I don't care," she says. "People are too sensitive and they shouldn't be. Not if they're in showbusiness. Why should they give a toss about my opinions? I don't give a toss about anyone."

- Married Alive, *Orion*, £12.99.
- Close Up: Who does Julie Burchill think she is? *tomorrow, BBC2, 9.30pm*

REX



Genetic nightmare? Vegetarians may have more to worry about than eating animals

Veggies and the seeds of doubt

The furore over genetically modified food has left vegetarians worried. **Anjana Ahuja** reports

For decades, vegetarians have had the upper hand. The country's estimated four million herbivores, with their whippet-thin figures, glossy hair and shiny skin, could boast about the many virtues of their non-meat-eating stance.

Not only were they refusing to prop up factory farming, or "to eat anything with a face", but they could also be smug in the knowledge that cutting out meat lowers the risk of heart disease and cancer, and (supposedly) leads to a more fulfilling sex life. The path to paradise, it seemed, was strewn with nut roasts and mung beans rather than with burgers and bacon butties.

Now the furore over genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which are in products as diverse as margarine and pizza, has robbed the veggies of their steely confidence because, like the rest of us, they can no longer be sure of what they are eating. Unbeknown to them, the technology that has allowed scientists to meddle with foods has been perfected on one of their favourite staples: soya. Even Linda McCartney's sausages have been found to contain traces of GMOs. While nobody is claiming that GM foods will lead to adverse effects on health, veggies and vegans (who reject animal products such as milk as well as flesh) are puritans among consumers. They have been among the most ardent opponents of any genetic tampering. Being a militant bunch, they are also concerned, along with meat-eaters and the Prince of Wales, about the environmental effects of manipulating plant genes.

So it has come as a rude shock to our beetroot-munching brethren that even though they have managed to steer clear of BSE, they are not in complete control of their diet. "There is concern among vegetarians that their diet is being tampered with," says Chris Olivant, information officer at the Vegetarian Society, which will withdraw its well-known V symbol from foods and dishes that contain GMOs. But although he accepts that vegetarians sometimes suffer from a "holier than thou" image, he maintains that they are not affected by the GM food debate any more than omnivores.

"People who are not vegetarian eat similar amounts of vegetables so I can't really see a difference." Will the scare diminish their numbers? Mr Olivant thinks not: "There may be some vegetarians who think, 'Oh well, I may as well eat what I want now', but most veggies have their wits about them.

"If anything, this row is likely to push them away from the mainstream and even further towards organic food. Since the end of last week we have been fielding calls non-stop from people who want to know what they can do about their diet. They want to know, for example, which companies produce soya milk without genetic modification.

"To be honest, the only way you can ever be absolutely certain about what you are eating is to cook vegetables you have grown yourself because then you know what the ingredients are."

Uri Geller, the famous psychic and columnist for *The Times*, and his wife Hanna are strict vegetarians and deplore the idea that their diet might contain GMOs. "Hanna makes sure that everything we eat is organic. She makes lengthy inquiries to ascertain that our food has not been touched by pesticides. Now we will just have to be even more cautious about what we put into our mouths."

Does he feel that vegetarians can no longer claim to be "purer" than the rest of us? "I know we sometimes drive meat-eaters up the wall, but we can still enjoy a clear conscience because we are not eating things that have been killed. However, the fact that we could be eating GM foods means we cannot be *quite* as superior as we once were."

Geller agrees with the Vegetarian Society that, if anything, vegetarians willbecome more vocal about promoting their way of life.

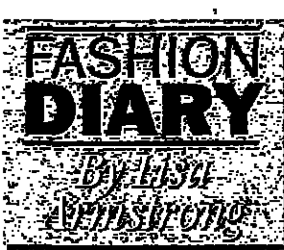
"My opinion is that, as vegetarians, we are strong," he says. "We are dogmatic in the way that we adhere to our system of eating. We are a minority and we stand out. I think there is something deep in our psyche that tells us we must save animals because we are animals, too. We know that if you interrupt the flow of nature it will hit back at you, and it will hit hard."

NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Tuning into Groomed City

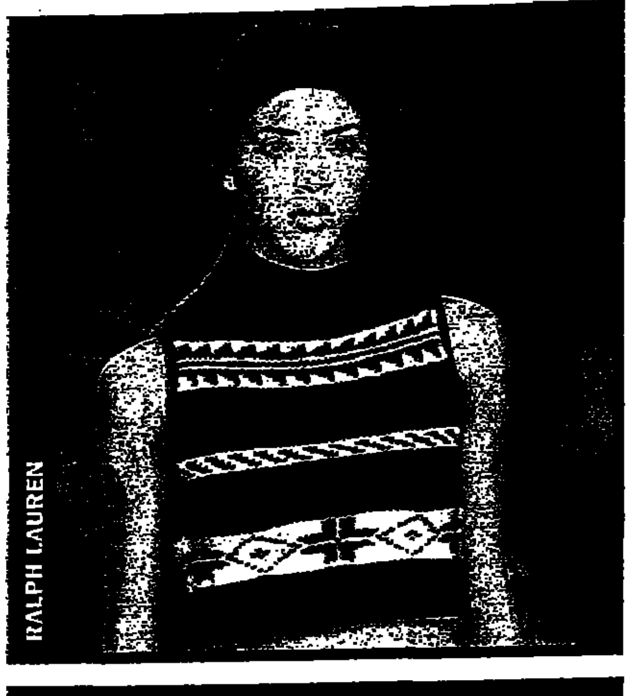
■ NEW Yorkers may be frazzled (this time last week Donna Karan apparently had only six outfits ready), but there's always time for a manicure, pedicure, spot of eyelash perming (don't ask). This is Groomed City and, quite honestly, it has been majorly stressful finding time for it all. Still, I persevered and I am now the proud possessor of what one of my friends calls The New York Eyebrow. She told me that she had thus far resisted the symmetrical, perfect circumflex with absolutely-no-straggly-hairs-going-walkabout-across-the-bridge-of-your-nose that all truly chic New Yorkers have — and I felt a sucker. However, when I demonstrated how my New York Eyebrow had "opened up my eyes, framed my face" and anything else I could remember from *Allure* magazine, she promptly booked in for a session. You can tell a lot about a society from its attitude to eyebrows. Thin and arched is always a sign of a social backlash (see grunge); pronounced and bold is counter-culture (see punk). Very expensive and prized is, well, New York, a town where people are expected to preen every last millimetre of flesh.

■ ONE of the places to head is John Barrett's, atop Bergdorf Goodman, one of Manhattan's most chic stores. New York's glossy posse flock to this temple, not just for the spectacular views of Central Park, or the slick, cream and mahogany interior decor by the Irish architect (and best friend of Madonna) David Collins, or even because a cut with the main man is £225. They go because John Barrett, ex-washer-up in Lyons Corner House, one-time purveyor of dubious souvenirs on the corner next to Liberty in Regent Street, is wonderful, full of Irish-blarney charm. He pops up all the time on television and in magazines, dispensing wisdom about lowlights and the perils of Botox, styling Helena Bonham Carter's hair for the Oscars, overhauling the cast of *Friends* and so on. He's also a great hairdresser. I know this because he used to cut my hair in London when he wasn't a star (the difference being about £200). The really startling thing is that he will call you the day after an appointment to tell you that he has been thinking over things and perhaps you should pop back for a few more streaks at the front. If he were a mere human being, one might be tempted to get him to a shrink, but he's a hairdresser, so it's perfect. What's *really* clever about him are the computer sockets next to the manicure and pedicure stations. It's brilliant and so very New York — plug in your laptop, whip out your toes — and fall asleep. Next month Barrett is coming to London for four days. He'll be cutting hair at Harrods from March 16-19. All proceeds go to RAPT (Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners) and to ChildLine. Telephone 0171-730 1234 for details.

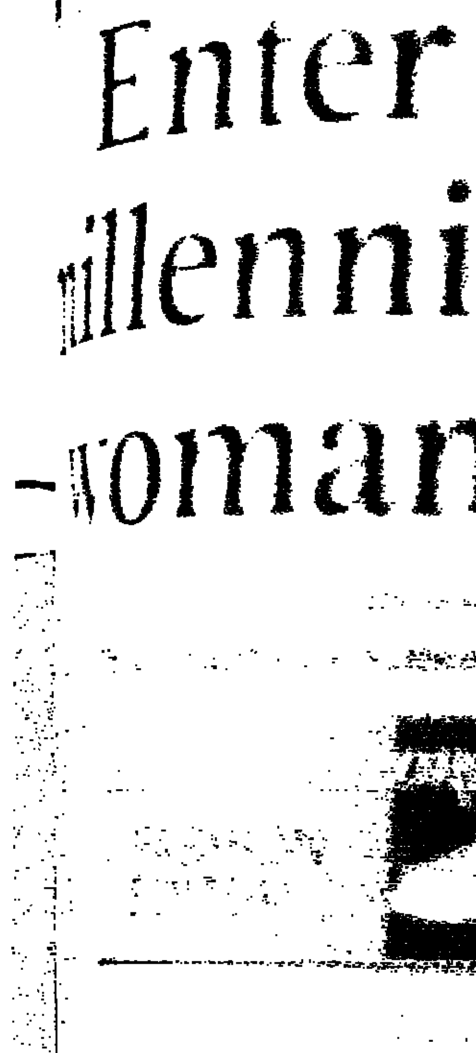


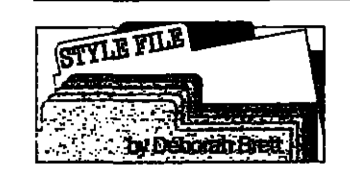
■ I DON'T think Linda Tripp has any problem with The New York Eyebrow. Her makeover was something of a *cause célèbre* here last week. Blonded, bouffanted and heavily airbrushed, her beatific visage beamed out of newspaper advertisements trailing her "First live CNN prime-time interview". ILO Day Spa, housed in an airy 19th-century Georgetown house in Washington, where resident make-up artist Kent Lodemore has worked wonders on Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole and Tipper Gore, can take some of the credit for the transmogrification of America's least popular frump into a blonde cutie who wouldn't look out of place reading the news on *Good Morning America*. However, as followers of Liz Hurley, Paula Jones, Hillary Clinton *et al* know all too well, nothing works so well in elevating a woman from so-so to stunning as that gruelling process known as the whiff of scandal.


MALANDRINO


RALPH LAUREN


MICHAEL KORS





DIANE VON FURSTENBERG
New York fashion designer

Describe your personal style
Eclectic, timeless and fluid.

You made your name with the Seventies slinky wrap dress — and now the Nineties relaunch ...
Yes, it's in silk and jersey and now there is a whole Diane label.

Your first husband was a prince (Prince Egon von Furstenburg). Is your life a fairytale?
If it was a fairyale the Prince wouldn't have sent me out to work. I don't believe in fairytales because in life you pay for everything.

What period in fashion do you love?
Antique Greece, the Twenties and anything feminine.

What piece of clothing can you not live without?
My bodysuits. I wear them all year.

What is your pet hate?
White shoes. In fact, sloppy shoes in general.

What is the most luxurious item that you have ever bought for yourself?
My double white sahtoosh (a wrap that is woven from the down of the Tibetan antelope), which cost far too much money for me to admit.

What do you think of current trends?
I just love today's fashion trends because they allow individuality.

What is your favourite shop?
Manolo Blahnik and Christian Louboutin. I just can't resist shoes.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift?
A double white sahtoosh in case I lose mine.

How often do you go shopping?
Very seldom when I'm in New York. Instead, I always shop when I travel.

How important is fashion to you?
Fashion is a reflection of our time, so it exists no matter what.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?
My kids. I'm proud of them for who they are: for their generosity and curiosity.

Your parties are legendary, how are they such a success?
You have to surround yourself with people who won't leave early. You can't be a good hostess unless you are a good matchmaker. And you need stars.

Is your office chic or merely functional?
My office is my home. My personal life and my business life are totally interlinked, so this spills into the office.

Diane von Furstenberg

How do you relax?
I have a meditation room and I like to wander around my cacti garden.

Why do you dislike restaurants?
Now that all fresh food is poisoned, the only healthy food to eat is junk food.

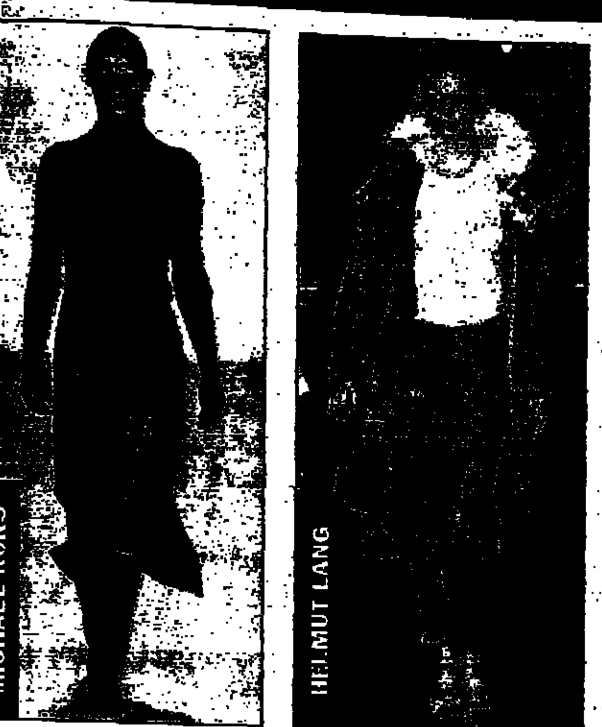
When are you happiest?
When I am on the road travelling but knowing that I will always come back to Cloudwalk, my weekend place in Connecticut.

If you didn't live in New York where else would you like to live?
Paris — I lived there for six years — or at my house in the Bahamas.

Who is your mentor?
My mother Diane is the heroine of my life. She taught me how to savour it and turn every negative into a positive.

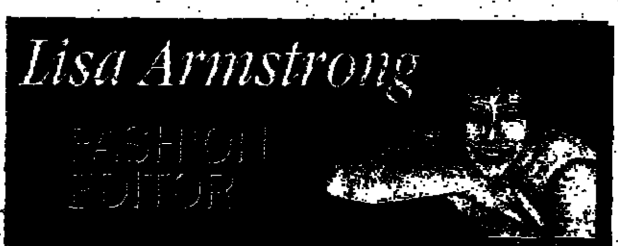
What is your style motto?
Feel like a woman and really enjoy it.




MICHAEL KORS · HELMUT LANG · MARC JACOBS

Enter millennial woman

The best of New York fashion strides into 2000 with a sleek new line. **Photographs by Simon Walker**



I wasn't entirely sold on the flared mid-calf skirt, poloneck and high-heeled boots look to begin with. But at Marc Jacobs's show on the first day of New York Fashion Week, he tossed his inimitable luxurious touches into the mix.

The clothes featured some great details. The pin-tucking that rippled down the bibs of his blouses (there is no other word; *"shirts" does not* adequately describe these Laura Ashley-esque apparitions) cropped up on trousers and skirt waistbands, adding an almost couture touch to otherwise sleek clothes. The loose-weave cashmere sweaters, which retail for between £450-£750 in his Soho boutique, were pretty covetable, and a tan and white ponyskin skirt sent more than one New York mag-hag into a retail frenzy.

The fashionistas acclaimed the collection, but it was hard to dispel the notion that you need to be 17, tall and skinny not to *look frumpy in it.* Still, that was then and this is now, and in fashion parlance I have got my eye well and truly in. The man responsible for putting it there was Michael Kors. He was inspired by Slim Hawks, whose *husband* Howard *Hawks* moulded his protégée Lauren Bacall entirely in her image.

This collection was one of the week's best. Yes, the skirts hit that tricky mid-calf spot, but they weren't box-pleated. There were more of those cashmere polonecks that the City has been awash with. (Is that it? Can the culmination of 20th-century *fashion* with its Coco Chanel, Saint Laurent, Balenciaga, Courreges, Galliano . . . really be a *jumper?*)

And yes, there were yet more knee-high boots, this time flat and nicely weathered. But they all looked delectable.

The skirts, which were by far the sexiest take on the new A-line length, were split or wrapped; the cottons and canvasses that Kors has always favoured were rubberised for that crucial contemporary finish. *And the colours* — browns, camels, blonds and maize (dark cream) were enticing enough to tempt even New Yorkers out of black. Or then again, perhaps not.

"Black is the new black," Tommy Hilfiger said in mock seriousness. Calvin Klein was back on it, too, as was Donna Karan. I don't think that Hel*mut Lang is too crazy about* colour this season either, unless it's pumpkin and generally challenging. At any rate, at his show, which, just to irritate everyone, was held in his store (another of those hip concrete-floors-and-*blinding-white*-walls joints), one of the PRs whooshed up to me and asked me to move my coat, which was on a ledge under my chair. I think the shade (lavender) was upsetting the edgy vibes.

> The best clothes almost all started out as workwear

"I got colour out of my sys*tem last season,*" *Klein said* loftily before his show. Lauren, on the other hand, had not. *Having hijacked* the world's remaining stock of boiled wool, he proceeded to drench it with lilac, apple green, coral, orange. The clothes — sleek, spare separates — were meant to be modern and sporty, ripe for the next century. But the combination of suburban-style colour and starkness struck a false note. *Whatever millennial* woman will be wearing, it's unlikely to be periwinkle.

Besides, white, as any monochrome addict will tell you, is a colour, too. It's also the ultimate luxury. "If you have a white coat," Klein points out not unreasonably, "you probably have several others to see you through while it's at the dry-cleaners".

The other ultimate luxury, of course, is buying clothes that are so pared-down that they don't have linings, visible buttons or hems — that look, in short, like dustmen's overalls. "Think about the best clothes — they nearly always started out as workwear," says Klein. The black or white felted wools that he used lent the *clothes a starkness that he* played up to with simple graphic shapes and functional ideas. The leather jackets had fine elastic seaming to facilitate movement.

"I'm designing for comfort," says Klein. "For women who have a million things to do." Donna Karan is too, but her take is more romantic; assy*metric hems and lots of wrap*ping.

New Yorkers are obsessed with their busy lives. They are so busy telling you how busy they are that it's a miracle they have time to nip into Marc Jacobs. One day they'll find a way to eliminate getting dressed altogether. Meanwhile, fashion here is about *constructing* a *uniform that* signals how damn preoccupied you are. That is why Hel*mut Lang, the master minimal*ist, is forging a huge $100 million business here. Actually, for Lang, this collection featured a lot of detailing: biker padding on the leather trousers, zips scoring through the legs of canvas trousers, feathery organza vests with funnel necks, canvas strap-bags that fit around the arm with Vel*cro, and dresses with neck-pil*lows that possibly took the concept of travel chic a trifle far.

Lang has been so copied that it's easy to forget just what an original he is. These were brilliant, hard-edged clothes, less lyrical than recently — but then it's a tough world out there. At least when things turn really nasty there's a Lang coat. They are among the best anywhere — often in canvas but with detachable sheepskin linings and internal shoulder straps so that in warmer weather the coat can hang nonchalantly from the shoulders — so you can be depressed in *luxury.*

If Lang has seen the future, Anna Sui turned to the golden years of Newport's music festivals — circa 1964. Cue those Julie Christie-type headscarves that only ever looked good on her, and lots of cute black and white smock dresses, duffle coats and not so cute crochet tanks. It looked a lot more palatable than the real thing. Sui's drawcard is her kookiness, which plays well to a certain downtown type.

She may have some competition now from Catherine Malandrino, a chic French import who opened an eponymous boutique downtown six months ago and this week launched her first presentation. Malandrino is not obsessed with how stressed-out she is but with making things look pretty and colourful. These were eclectic pieces — fringed mohair skirts, appliquéd jumpers, slim leather coats with knitted sleeves — with a bohemian feel and a Parisian slickness. Harvey *Nichols and Browns have* snapped them up.

And much as I love the idea *of Calvin fretting over his* customers' laundry bills, it was a relief to note that there wasn't a scrap of white in sight.


CALVIN KLEIN


ANNA SUI


TSE NEW YORK


RALPH LAUREN

TRENDS FOR AUTUMN/WINTER 1999

ANORAKS, PARKAS: the American coat has a nylon or canvas sporty feel next winter. They are streamlined and sometimes come with detachable linings — best at Helmut Lang, Daryl K and Michael Kors.
FLARED CALF-LENGTH SKIRTS: best at Marc Jacobs.
SWEATERS: the newest come just to the hip *with either polo or funnel necks — best at* Michael Kors.
BOOTS: either with a high chunky heel — best at Marc Jacobs; or flat motorbike boots — best at Daryl K.
ZIP-UP VESTS: padded, knitted or in sheepskin or leather — best at Helmut Lang.
COLOUR: black or white — best at Calvin Klein.
FABRICS: boiled wool, rubberised canvas, ponyskin, sheepskin leather — best at Michael Kors and Helmut Lang.
DETAILS: top-stitching, chevron stripes and pouch bags popped up all over the place — best at Helmut Lang.



OPERA

Tosca hits the high notes at the Albert Hall

FACING PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Henry Purcell celebrated at the Wigmore

FACING PAGE

Solid achievement was the name of the game at the Berlin Film Festival, as **Geoff Brown** reports

In and out of the spotlight

If prizes were given for the most valiant acting in the silliest circumstances, the Berlin Film Festival's jury would have to have anointed Ian Holm for his fleeting role as the Devil in Britain's competition entry *Simon Magus*, a cumbersome tale of Jew and Gentile, set in 19th-century Poland. At one point he popped up just to say: "Do not be afraid, for it is only I, Boris of Bohemia". The man did not blink an eyelid.

The public, critics, sellers and buyers showed stamina too. It was a good festival: no knock-'em-dead masterpieces or stunning discoveries, but with enough solid achievements from old hands and new to keep everyone smiling, including the jury. *The Thin Red Line* had long been front-runner for the Golden Bear prize for best film, and so it turned out. Acknowledgement of Soren Kragh-Jacobsen's idiosyncratic family drama *Mifune* was also expected: that won the jury's Grand Prix. The jury's other prizes had idiosyncrasies of their own. Stephen Frears did a competent job marshalling the wide open spaces for his western of sorts, *The Hi-Lo Country*, but this hardly qualified him for the Best Director award.

‘The Thin Red Line had long been the front-runner for best film and so it turned out’

Strange, too, that all the actor prizes went to Germans. Michael Gwizdek won for his role as a harassed businessman in *Night Shapes*, an agreeable tour of Berlin nightlife from a new director, Andreas Dresen. Juliane Köhler and Maria Schrader also left clutching Silver Bears for their roles as lesbian lovers in Max Färberböck's war story *Aimée and Jaguar*, a film with interesting material and the hollow look of a TV movie.

Not all the pleasures were in competition. Among the few British entries, it was clear to everyone that Tim Roth's directorial debut **The War Zone** was far stronger than Ben Hopkins's *Simon Magus*, a film burdened by bad dialogue, over-solemnity and the strain of trying to pass off a Welsh cosy corner as Silesia. Maybe Roth's topic — incest — kept the film out of the competition spotlight. Yet this astonishingly accomplished and sensitive film, based on Alexander Stuart's novel, never means to stir up controversy, for all the frank footage of a father (Ray Winstone) sexually abusing his daughter in a remote Devon house in the gloom of winter. Its true subject is the violence of silence, the way human relationships can be shattered under pressure from things not said.



Not in competition but a winner nonetheless: Lara Belmont and Ray Winstone in Tim Roth's "astonishingly accomplished" debut, *The War Zone*

Performances by Winstone, Tilda Swinton and two teenage newcomers, Lara Belmont and Freddie Cunliffe, are all extraordinary. But this is not simply an actors' showpiece like Gary Oldman's *Nil by Mouth*. Roth has created a real, blazing film; he masters the widescreen spaces, sculpting light and shade, characters and setting, with the ease of a veteran, and draws us straight to the heart of the most painful of all family dramas.

Other films seemed determined to keep the audience at bay through prettily photographed obfuscation. So many people left during the Portuguese competition entry *Gloria* that you would have thought a fire alarm had sounded. But during Bertrand Tavernier's **Ça Commence aujourd'hui (It All Starts Today)**, we sat entranced. Here was a film that tackled a subject important enough in our daily lives but rarely glimpsed *in cinema: kindergarten* schooling.

You could find fault with the cramming of incidents into a couple of hours: there was never a dull moment for Philippe Torreton, superb in *his role as the hard-pressed* school director in a once prosperous area of northern France. But all it took was a close-up of a vulnerable child or a painful moment with a mother living off biscuits soaked in milk for the film to seem the best in the world: Ken Loach laced with Gallic poetry. The film took the ecumenical jury's prize and the critics' prize for the best in competition: *all the main jury* could do, however, was to slip in a special mention.

Tavernier, always an eclectic director, rubbed shoulders in competition with his predictable countryman Claude Chabrol. No new ingredients turned up in **Au Coeur du mensonge (The Colour of Lies)**, a tale of murder, suspicion and extra-marital affairs set in St Malo on the Brittany coast. But it looked beguiling (lots of moody blues and greys) and poked around the town's social scene with Chabrol's usual sharp wit. Good acting too, even from Antoine de Caunes, cast as a preening media celebrity who pursues an affair with Sandrine Bonnaire.

While Chabrol was content to do the expected, other directors cast caution to the winds. Emboldened by recent commercial successes, Mike Figgis went all experimental in **The Loss of Sexual Innocence**, based on material originally conceived as a mixed-media piece in his theatre days. The synopsis suggested the film would be easy to understand. Big mistake. We were thrown into a jumble of flashbacks and trite biblical echoes. Scenes from the youth of Julian Sands's character were *piquant enough; but his present* difficulties as a film-maker shooting in Tunisia only produced imagery best left to fashion adverts in Sunday magazines. The film's only hope is to become a cult.

Maybe David Cronenberg could give Figgis tips on how to be hugely quirky while keeping hold of an audience. True, his last film, *Crash*, was not user-friendly, but he made amends with **eXistenZ**, a computer-game fantasy light and playful almost to a fault. Ian Holm turned up here as well, muttering in a vague Central European accent, though the main thesping duties were undertaken by Jennifer Jason Leigh, the goddess of computer-game designers, and Jude Law, the innocent who joins her in a race for survival. Chunks of the film were very funny, but it was still hard not to yawn at times as Leigh and Law ricocheted between reality and fantasy, computer software downloaded into their *spinal cords. This was Cronenberg* ticking over.

Some of the most heartening films in Berlin showed directors moving forward. The Swiss-Canadian Léa Pool is a festival stalwart, but none of her past earnest endeavours have ever brought as much pleasure as **Emporte-moi (Set Me Free)**, a wonderfully fresh coming-of-age story set in the early 1960s, with a terrific performance from Karine Vanasse as the 13-year-old whirled around in an emotional maelstrom.

Food for thought parcel from America



THEATRE

Splash Hatch/ Morphic Resonance/ Donmar

These two shortish plays launch a season at the Donmar whose oddly bureaucratic title, *American Imports*, conceals the admirable ambition to "redress the balance of young dramatists crossing the Atlantic". New York gets Martin McDonagh, Conor McPherson, Patrick Marber. London now gets Kia Corthron, author of a play whose full name is **Splash Hatch on the E Going Down**, and Katherine Burger, who wrote **Morphic Resonance**.

It is not an especially fair trade, since neither piece *matches The Beauty Queen of Leenane* or *The Weir* for originality and assurance; but it does show that there is talent on the opposite side of the pond which those jittery Julies, the American producers, should themselves be doing more to encourage.

Corthron's play is the less accomplished but the meatier, exuding as it does concern for E, which is not Ecstasy or the name of a New York railway system, but ecology and the Earth. Often this is bluntly expressed by Shauna Shim's Thyme, who is about to have a water birth or "splash hatch". At times her conversation consists entirely of complaints about the ozone layer or of statistics about city waste, the tonnage of fish dumped in the Pacific, and so on.

Pass a remark about the weather, and she will start reminding you that an America with 6 per cent of the world's population uses 60 per cent of its energy resources. How to humanise her or at least prevent her becoming a bore? Well, she is played by Shim with the earnest sweetness of the super-intelligent 18-year-old she is; her best friend finds *her maddeningly garrulous*; and, as a pregnant Afro-American living in Harlem, she has a personal stake in one statistic, which is that infant mortality for black babies in America is double that for whites.

All this helps, but is still not enough to bring dramatic ex*citement to a play that in any* case treats important supporting characters too cursorily. How much do we care that her husband, Chiwetel Ejiofor's appealingly boyish Erry, is succumbing to the lead poisoning he contracted doing demolition work? Not a lot: and as a result *it is the harder to share* the author's dismay at the toxins polluting the urban air.

I never twigged why the title ends with the words "going down", and still wonder what "morphic resonance", which seems to be a New Age version of the collective *unconscious*, has to do with Burger's tale of unmarried twentysomethings in New York.

The subject is the love that dare not speak its name, not for Wildean reasons, but because it means change, commitment, "discovering your inner grown-up". I had better not disclose too many of the play's secrets; but I can report that it suggests that a relationship is more likely to thrive if the woman has been given a time limit by the oncologists. Actually, Burger is not an especially cynical writer, but one with the sensitivity and realism to see the ambiguities, contradictions and doubts endemic in human emotion.



Shauna Shim and Chiwetel Ejiofor in *Splash Hatch*

She also has the humour to prevent her characters' persistent self-analysis becoming offputtingly humid, and the skill to create nice roles for actors *who here include Anastasia* Hille as the cancer victim, Nigel Lindsay as the extrovert who courts her, Joanna Roth as a svelte narcissist still in thrall to her daddy, and Lloyd Owen as her would-be rescuer. With James Kerr directing, it is fun, at times elegantly attenuated *fun — but, if you* want a love-play with genuine bite, try a British export to New York, Marber's *Closer*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Electric, sexy and right on song

OPERA: Rodney Milnes is riveted by Raymond Gubbay's masterly *Tosca* at the Albert Hall

Poor old Raymond Gubbay; he will have to do better than this. If he is going to maintain his reputation as a People's Impresario locked in mortal combat with a nasty elitist operatic establishment and ghastly old critics obstinately out of touch, then he will have to stop engaging directors as skilful as David Freeman, designers as superbly imaginative as David Roger, and conductors such as Peter Robinson who really know their way about operatic scores. Heaven knows, I have sat through a few *Toscas* in my time, but it is many a year since Puccini's "shabby little shocker" (or highly polished, grandiose moral fable, according to taste) kept me on the edge of my seat like last Thursday's at the Albert Hall, by any standard a serious, utterly professional and thrillingly theatrical show. Sorry about that, Ray, but do feel free to quote my opening sentence in any publicity.

Where to start? With the sound, since it was on that subject that a gauntlet was thrown down in these pages last week when Hilary Finch interviewed Bobby Aitken, the sound designer. Amplification — or whatever you care to call it (I rather like Aitken's "acoustic intervention") — is a science still in its infancy, and Aitken seems to have taken several steps forward even since last year's universally praised *Butterfly*. It is much more "directional": whatever is done to them, the voices still seem to emerge from the singers, not from some disembodied sound-heaven: when they turn away, you know they have turned away but you can still hear them. Dashed clever.

And you can hear the words, which is important in what is essentially a musical thriller: every twist and turn of the plot is made clear by Amanda Holden's new translation in good, plain, musical English, with only one or two eccentricities. I mean, "rat-faced arsehole", which is what Scarpia calls Spoletta, sounds both zoologically and anatomically improbable, though it trips off the tongue more easily than "basilisk's mug" (*ceffo di basilisco*).

The other point is that singers have now grown accustomed to "acoustic intervention": they adjust their volume to it and concentrate on phrasing musically and enunciating the words. None more so than Susan Bullock as Tosca: she believes in the role and "lives" every single moment of it — grandly diva-ish, bitchy, vulnerable, every mood caught to perfection. John Uhlenhopp (Cavaradossi) is a good naturalistic actor. Keith Latham's Scarpia is by far the best thing he has done, a thug with just enough of the velvet glove and a smile to freeze the blood. What he and Bullock get up to in the near-rape scene could only be described in the decent obscurity of a learned language.

> 'Freeman does not shirk the sex and sadism content'

From which it may be gathered that Freeman does not shirk the sex'n'sadism content: the torture scene is played on stage for reasons laid out in his persuasive programme note, in which the names of Pinochet, Allende and Tarantino also crop up. Nor is spectacle shirked: the entry of Scarpia and the *Te Deum* procession should be studied closely by every aspiring director — perfectly timed *coups de théâtre*, both of them — and the end is no anticlimax. Bullock has to run up 37 steps to reach the summit of David Roger's Castel Sant'Angelo before somehow finding the breath for her last phrase and the fatal leap. By then the audience was as breathless as she was. A riveting evening.

DONALD COOPER



Susan Bullock as Tosca: "she believes in the role and 'lives' every moment of it — grandly diva-ish, bitchy, vulnerable"

VISUAL ART: Rachel Campbell-Johnston is dazzled by computer art

Can this be digital hardcore?

Only one gallery in Britain is dedicated to digital art. But two sorts of people go there: the usual gallery-going breed and the dingy-basement techno type. "The latter aren't much interested in what the artist means," says Ian Middleton of the Colville Place Gallery, "but they are fascinated by the way in which images are made."

By splicing these two viewpoints one can begin to understand why computer art is no longer a contradiction in terms. The arrival of the powerful PC gave birth to the 1990s decade of the digital. Some say it will prove as momentous as the shift from medieval imagery to Renaissance perspective. Graham Howard, the leader of a computer-related design course at the Royal College of Art, agrees. "There is a relationship with the Renaissance," he says, "in that technology opens up a new array of possibilities."

Traditionalists are floundering in a multimedia marsh, lamenting the loss of old-fashioned skills. Digital artists use computers instead of canvas, software instead of chisels. Where is the craft in the click and highlight, the drag and paste? The answer is that it lies in mental, rather than physical, aptitude. How many people can twist their minds round the abstract complexities of vectors and algorithms?

This week a show at the Royal College of Art displays just what alchemy technology can work. Exploring the theme of museums, a group of students probe futuristic possibilities for these repositories of history. The pieces are as teasing as they are didactic. Playfully linking metaphorical and literal ideas of illumination, a high-tech torch tickled over the tummy of an astronaut unfurls layer upon layer of information in Tim Brooke's *Beam Me Up, Scotty*. Alex Darlington's *Displace* pushes visitors back with its billowing air bags if they overcrowd its space. Chelle Hughes tests human reactions with her *Pavlov's Box*, as a room reacts to the presence of people.

Most of these pieces lean more towards design than towards ideals of creativity — although debate about such distinctions endlessly entertain academics. But it only takes a quick flick through any listings page to see how electronics have invaded the art world.

In London this week you can visit the Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize (at the Photographer's Gallery, 5 Great Newport Street, WC1, 0171-831 1772 until March 27) to see how technology has liberated the photographer from the cold, wet world of the darkroom. As silver gives way to silicon, viewers cannot believe their eyes anymore. A show at the Greengrassi gallery (39C Fitzroy Street, W1, 0171-387 8747 until February 25) loses visitors in an inside-out world of mesmeric hallucinations. Punks mess about with pixellations in a show by the Mekons (Spitz Gallery, 109 Commercial Street, E1, 0171-392 9034 until March 14).

Computer art and design is all around us — from advertising to high aesthetics. Perhaps we will all be immersed in the illusionistic realities of cyberspace, even before we realise we have arrived.

● The Colville Place Gallery, Colville Place London WC2 (0171-436 1330); *The Gestetner Digital Art Experience* at the Royal College of Art (0171-590 4125) until Wed

The inner limits

DANCE
Jeremy James
The Place, WC1

EVEN talented artists are in danger of getting stuck on the treadmill of their own gifts. Consider British choreographer Jeremy James. A student at the Royal Ballet School in his teens, he switched from classical to contemporary and subsequently carved out a notable career performing with the likes of Rambert Dance Company and DV8 Physical Theatre. Since 1993 he has headed his own group.

Last week Jeremy James & Company kicked off the *Spring Loaded* festival, London's annual paean to the diversity of British modern dance. While the triple bill at The Place showcased James's strengths, it also revealed his limitations.

Tammy Arjona begins *Juice* with a solo of quick, careful steps and precision contortions. A serious and virtually boneless *gamine*, Arjona collapses in upon and then resurrects herself. Her scooping, twisting moves are echoed by the serene Diana Loosmore. A third woman, Stine Nilsen, slips in both to copy and disrupt their patterns. Sardined together, they are like human cogs in some crazy machine.

Visually, parts of *Parts* suggest a cinematic crazy quilt. Caught in blobs and bands of rainbow colour, the five dancers (including Sonja Peedo and Lee Boggess) start with a back-to-basics geometry of linear and circular gestures. Activities are driven into ever higher gears by Matteo Fargion's cyclical piano score, punctuated by a child's voice blurting out numbers. *My Big Pants*, meanwhile, is something of a Jamesian signature piece. Four dancers wriggle, hip-flick and roll their way through distinctively task-oriented choreography.

With their stylised street garb, industrial/psychedelic/clubland soundscapes and smart urban veneer, James's dances are definitely contemporary, but they remain frustratingly unfulfilling, seemingly finished before they get to wherever they were headed. You wish the work would cut sharper and deeper, or that its maker could cut loose and dare to mess things up.

DONALD HUTERA

Echoes of heaven

An entire evening of verse anthems, even by the master of the genre, Henry Purcell, might seem too much of a good thing. Surely this is the programming of a compact disc rather than a live concert? But to the credit of Robert King and his King's Consort, their Wigmore Hall event titled "Purcell at the Chapel Royal" never outstayed its welcome.

In the first place, the anthems were separated by a handful of devotional songs. Secondly, Purcell's music is full of such infinite variety that you constantly marvel at his imagination. And thirdly, all the musicians, both singers and players, had the style in their bones, so that every Purcellian idiosyncrasy was exploited to expressive effect.

The event aspired to authenticity on several counts. The pitch adopted was A=466, well above the usual Baroque pitch and even modern concert pitch but believed to be the operative standard of the chapel. King also pointed out that the Chapel Royal was of a similar size to the Wigmore Hall, and (rather more dubiously) that when choristers were absent through sickness, the numbers may not have far exceeded the five we heard.

CONCERT
King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

Among the notable features of Purcell's verse anthems are the elegiac introductions of *I Will Give Thanks* and *Behold, Now Praise the Lord*, the tranquil endings of *O Sing Unto the Lord* and *Let Mine Eyes Run Down With Tears*, and the magnificent, ubiquitous word-painting. The Consort were alert to all such delights, as to the outlandish dissonances and dancing rhythms throughout.

The role of Purcell's star singer John Gostling ("that stupendious base", as he was described by a contemporary) was taken by Peter Harvey, who rose (and descended) to the challenge admirably. Carolyn Sampson was the excellent soprano in the devotional song *Thou Wakeful Shepherd*, and James Bowman a considerate vocal partner as well as soloist. In an age that seems to see a new countertenor every week, Bowman remains a sovereign exponent of the art. His rendering of the celebrated *Evening Hymn*, sensuous even in extolling the joys of heaven, boasted not a hackneyed phrase. Celestial, in every sense.

BARRY MILLINGTON

This week in THE TIMES

■ DANCE

Northern Ballet Theatre translates Bizet's sizzler *Carmen* into dance in Leeds
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ THEATRE

The gloriously inventive junk opera *Shockheaded Peter* returns to the Lyric
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ MUSIC

Man of many parts: Lorin Maazel conducts and plays with the LSO, Barbican
CONCERTS: Wed, Thur
REVIEW: Friday



■ FILM

Meg Ryan finds unlikely love with Tom Hanks on the Net in *You've Got Mail*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

You'll never walk alone, Mr Blair

Like Napoleon, the Prime Minister always needs his marshals

Peter Riddell

Tony Blair is a good deal less powerful than he is usually portrayed. The common image is of a dominant Prime Minister, presidential or monarchical according to taste, who seeks to control everything that moves or speaks. In reality, Mr Blair faces many constraints, to his frequent frustration.

Most critics confuse style with substance, presentation with policy. Many Blairities do have strongly centralist tendencies and deserve the label "control freak", epitomised by the term "on message". Mr Blair does cultivate a presidential image. He is the People's Tony above the partisan battle and the Prime Minister above the ministerial debate — with no nonsense about equals.

This style has fostered both record approval ratings and the extraordinary dislike, even hatred, towards him by many on the Right and the hard Left. That feeds absurd fantasies, such as Lord Beloff's comparison between Mr Blair and Hitler in these pages a fortnight ago. Not only was this deeply offensive to the victims of Nazism, tarnishing Lord Beloff's past scholarly reputation, but it totally distorted what is really happening.

Critics have made much of the Blairites' interventions on behalf of Alun Michael in Wales and against Ken Livingstone in London. Lord Beloff predictably referred to "Gauleiters-in-waiting". But this confuses clumsy, and probably counterproductive, short-term manoeuvres by the Blairites with the likely long-term results of devolution. Indeed, if the new Scottish and Welsh leaders are to survive, they will have to distance themselves from Mr Blair. By the end of this year Donald Dewar and Mr Michael will probably be involved in public disputes with central Government.

The main charge is that Mr Blair ignores the Cabinet and Parliament in pursuit of what Professor Peter Hennessy has called a "command premiership", a self-consciously Napoleonic model. There is something in these criticisms. The Commons does not feature high on Mr Blair's list of interests, though he has been voting more often than a year ago. The relative unimportance of the full Cabinet is shown by the very defensiveness with which its members claim that their weekly sessions now sometimes last at least an hour, up from the 30 to 45 minutes of a year ago, and the even shorter initial meetings. However, Cabinet Ministers can often be seen at Westminster before 11.30am, suggesting that discussions that in the past used to last until lunchtime are no longer particularly taxing.

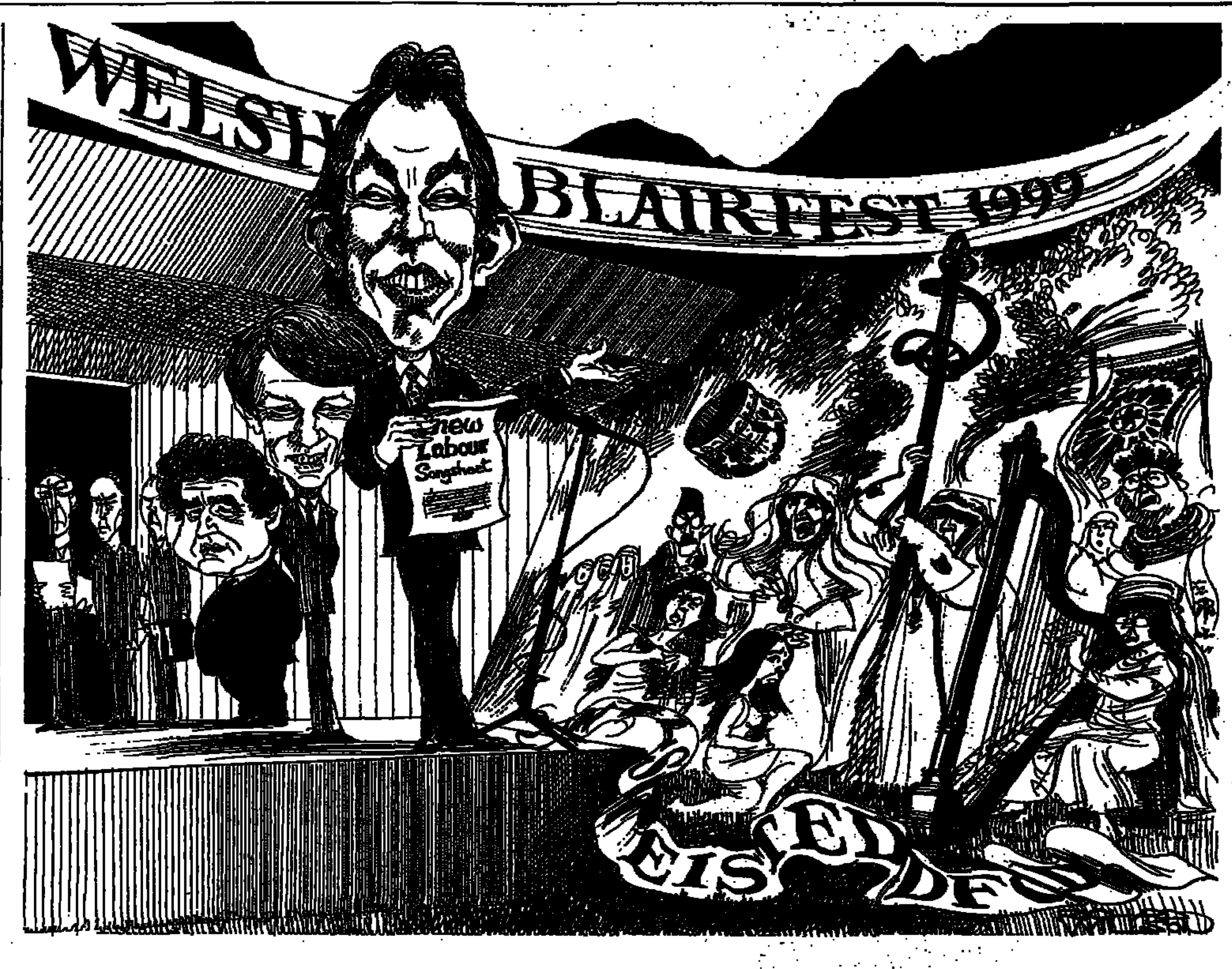
The decline in the significance of these meetings has been under way for a long time, as Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary, noted in his Attlee Foundation lecture last Thursday. During the late 1940s, Cabinets met for an average of 87 times a year, with 340 papers being formally circulated. In the early 1970s, there were still an average of 60 meetings a year, with 140 memoranda. But by this decade, the Cabinet has met no more than 40 times a year, with only as many as 20 papers circulated in one year. So, in Lord Butler's words, the Cabinet has "reverted to something close to what it was in the late 18th and 19th centuries — a meeting of political friends and colleagues at which issues of the moment were informally reported or discussed". Under Mr Blair, the discussion has been even less structured.

Lord Butler argues that the Cabinet has become too big and too insecure to have a real discussion, while the really important issues are probably too urgent to fit the stately timetable of Cabinet consultation. Nor does he really believe this matters. For Lord Butler, the main features of Cabinet Government are less the weekly meetings, nor even the patchy framework of committees. For him, the key is ensuring that all the various views and interests within Whitehall on an issue are taken into account before a decision is taken, that the "widest range of experience and wisdom" is brought to bear, and to create "a common sense of teamwork and bonding".

The Blair record here is uneven. Not only is there little sense of collective decision-making but many ministers do not feel part of a team — which could create problems for Mr Blair when the political going gets tougher. Even the original idea of a weekly pre-Cabinet session of the big four (John Prescott, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Mr Blair) has withered away, though the Prime Minister talks a lot to each on their own. Mr Blair's preferred model is less presidential, in the sense of a centralised imposition of the Downing Street will, than bilateral. He and his advisers work directly with affected ministers, seldom consulting others. This applies particularly on Northern Ireland, Europe, welfare reform, health and education. In many of these, the Treasury is also closely involved, so it would often be more correct to talk of a trilateral model. On the economy, however, Mr Brown prefers to keep discussion within the Treasury, apart from his frequent private talks with Mr Blair.

The Prime Minister faces powerful departmental interests. These have to be managed and can seldom be commanded. Mr Blair has wanted to strengthen the centre of government to improve implementation and to tackle cross-departmental issues such as social exclusion. But that falls well short of a presidential model. He can work only through his ministers. So the main question, less constitutional than political, is similar to the one that Margaret Thatcher faced — finding and promoting able allies to key ministerial posts. Even Napoleon was dependent on his marshals.

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The puppets' chorus

In Wales, Scotland and London Blair is betraying the cause of democracy

William Rees-Mogg

I greatly admire the Welsh. They are a Celtic nation, with many Celtic attributes: subtle, poetic, imaginative, sometimes confusing to the simple Anglo-Saxon mind. Twice this century, they have produced a politician of high genius, David Lloyd George and Aneurin Bevan; more often their politicians have excelled at midfield play, with intricate combinations, but have lacked a striker who could bang in the goal.

Wales has been trebly insulted by Labour policy on devolution. In the first place, the Welsh electorate did not much want devolution, and voted for it only by a narrow margin. In Scotland, many people voted for devolution as a step towards independence; and an independent Scotland, perhaps Scandinavian in character, would be a perfectly reasonable national objective. A much smaller proportion of Welsh people think that independence makes a realistic aim for them.

The Welsh assembly has been given much more limited powers than the Scottish parliament. For reasons which were always hard to understand, the Labour Government rejected the obvious constitutional solution of creating parliaments with identical powers, which would have had the same relationship to the United Kingdom. The Scottish parliament will at least have the potential to be a proper parliament for domestic affairs; the Welsh assembly is nothing like that. So far as its powers go, it is no more than a grandiose parish council.

The third insult has been the way in which the choice of leader for the assembly has been manipulated. When Tony Blair was chosen as leader of the Labour Party, the trade union section of the electoral college operated "one man, one vote". When Alun Michael was chosen Labour leader for Wales, the majority of the trade unions returned to the old block vote principle. Three trade union leaders were sufficient to cast the votes which gave Alun Michael his victory.

The whole campaign was made more disreputable by attempts, by Tony Blair himself, as well as by Alun Michael, to pretend that the national and the Welsh electoral systems had been the same. Both men were, indeed, chosen by an electoral college with three elements: one worked on the "omov system" for the constituencies and the unions; the Welsh college allowed block voting in the trade union section; the block votes were in fact decisive.

Because of the failure to give the Welsh assembly equal powers, Welsh devolution can only be regarded as more cultural, and less political, than Scottish. What did Tony Blair have against Rhodri Morgan? He is a well-educated man; like Tony Blair, he went to St John's College, Oxford, but he also went on to Harvard. In Labour Party terms, he is a moderate. He had the confidence of two previous Labour leaders, Neil Kinnock and John Smith. His trouble is that he is too Welsh, but naturally the Welsh rather like that.

I have nothing against Alun Michael, except that he did not give straight answers about the block vote. Yet, he did not strike me as being in the least visionary, or particularly Welsh by temperament. He is simply Blairite, in the same way as Alistair Darling or Stephen Byers. But they sit for Edinburgh Central and Tyneside North; they do not have the responsibility of representing Welsh culture or the Welsh people. They represent the Blair culture, which makes a virtue of being detribalised.

No doubt Welsh loyalty to Labour will hold fast when the assembly election comes, but any Welsh Labour supporter who voted for Rhodri Morgan must have doubts. Some will conclude the devolution for Wales is a sham, a cover for the maintenance of English supremacy, enforced by the Blairite rigging of the leadership election. Some will want to protest, and Plaid Cymru is a natural home for such protest votes.

If this pattern of granting devolution and then making sure to keep the devolved assembly under Downing Street control were confined to Wales, where Labour is traditionally so strong, it might be regarded as only a local issue. It is much bigger than that. The same policy of devolving constitutions without devolving power is seen in Scotland and in London. The Scottish list of Labour candidates has excluded Dennis Canavan, a popular constituency Member, thought to be unreliable in Blairite terms. Many Scottish electors, like many Welsh ones, may come to the conclusion that the only way to make devolution a reality is to vote for a nationalist party. In Scotland the SNP is likely to benefit, and its leader, Alex Salmond, is already denouncing the proposed puppet regime in Cardiff.

In London, Mr Blair seems determined to exclude Ken Livingstone from becoming the Labour candidate for mayor even if that means risking losing the election. Mr Livingstone, like Rhodri Morgan, is undoubtedly the most popular candidate with the voters. If yet another selection is rigged to stop the most popular candidate becoming the Labour nominee, then London will face the same challenge as Wales or Scotland. Will Londoners be prepared to vote for some Labour substitute, chosen for Blairite orthodoxy, rather than for the candidate who is far ahead in the polls? Mr Livingstone has said that he will not stand as an independent. Perhaps he will stick by that, but perhaps he will become so angry at being excluded, by a manipulated process, that he will reconsider his options. I would not blame him if he did. The London mayoral election will be held in May 2000, when Labour is likely to be less popular, under the alternative voting system, which gives effect to the second preferences of the defeated candidate.

Apart from fringe candidates, the first to be eliminated will almost certainly be the Liberal Democrat. If Ken Livingstone did choose to stand as an independent radical, he would almost certainly be one of the three leading candidates on the first ballot. He could expect a majority of the Liberal second preferences, more Conservative second preferences than any official Labour candidate would get, and almost all the official Labour second preferences.

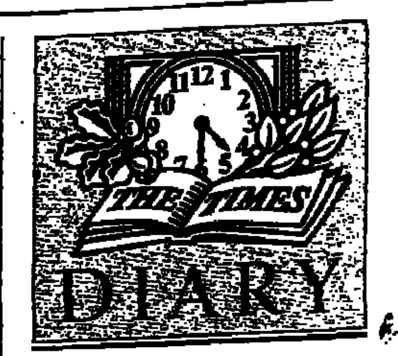
Given his popularity, and the volatility of the London electorate, many of whom regard themselves as independent rather than party voters, he would be quite likely to win. Strangely enough, the new electoral system in Wales, though different, could eliminate Alun Michael. He is only a list candidate; if Labour does well, there will be no top-up from the list, he will not become a member of the assembly, and Rhodri Morgan will presumably become leader after all.

The Welsh leadership decision echoes in Scotland and re-echoes in London. It has damaged confidence in the process of devolution, and will inevitably strengthen the cause of nationalism and of London radicalism; that is not at all what Mr Blair had in mind. Yet the real damage is to the Blair project itself. The election of Alun Michael has made the two most damaging criticisms of the Blair regime seem more convincing than they were before. These are the allegations of "cronyism" and that Tony Blair is a "control freak". They were already beginning to be believed, just as Tory "sleaze" came to be believed in the Major years. Such ideas are hard to get rid of.

Yet the damage is more profound than that. Mr Blair did not win his 1997 landslide by accident, or even by a skilful spin campaign. The voters believed that he was a special kind of politician, a bit more open, a bit more honest, a bit more of an idealist than most. They also believed that the three "D" words, Devolution, Diversity and Democracy meant something to him, that they were more than slogans — they were real beliefs. Neither in Wales, Scotland nor in London does that now appear to be true.

Tony Blair seems to think that democracy means that people must be free to vote so long as they vote for candidates he approves, not for Rhodri Morgan, not for Dennis Canavan, certainly not for Ken Livingstone. Mr Blair is prepared to use traditional and devious old Labour means to make sure that the Welsh choose his kind of leader, the Scottish his kind of candidate, Londoners his kind of mayor. Saturday's election in Wales was a defeat for Welsh democracy; it may have been a tactical victory for Tony Blair as a politician, but it was a strategic defeat for the ideals which gave him power in the first place.

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Pond life

LILLY LANGTRY'S Little Venice love pad is causing local blushes once more. The white stucco mansion, in which Miss Langtry cavorted in scandalous fashion with King Edward VII, has been bought by Michael Flatley, a professional dancer, for £4.7 million. To the concern of neighbours, who include Edward Fox, David Bowie and Joan Collins, Flatley — a self-styled Lord of the Dance — is remodelling the house *à la* Chingford.

Pleased by early innovations (a carpet depicting his own face is particularly striking), Flatley wants to build a vast swimming pool in the historic gardens. He has sent plans to a vexed Westminster Council, which has thrown them over to the local resident's association (patron: that doyen of Essex Men, John Julius Norwich). Local toffs are cross. For Flatley to win approval for his "improvements", he will have to use fancy footwork.

● *THERE must be something potent in the royal water. A pond fashioned by the Prince of Wales at Highgrove with the help of Miriam Rothschild is flourishing. Its water flowers and rushes have attracted ten species of dragonfly. The secret? It was built by the sewage bed.*

Pear shaped

THE Marchioness of Worcester has suffered another blow. After her hubby, the Marquess, withdrew her gracious invitation to eco urchins to set up on his lawns, the former actress Tracy Ward (below) admits that her organic vegetable business has gone belly up.



Badminton Natural Vegetables operated from a walled garden on the estate but our Tracy has learnt that eco-economics are confusing. "I have a super gardener," she says. "But profits are non-existent."

● *THE DUKE of EDINBURGH was on form at a reception at the weekend when presented with a hamper by Philip Lader, the American Ambassador. As Philip perused the pork pies and canapés, he was heard to mutter: "Where's the Southern Comfort?"*

Long stretch

LORD LONGFORD has lined up a successor: Jonathan Aitken. The prisoner's friend bought Aitken his last supper recently, before the former Cabinet Minister's impending stint in the clink. "He could become the greatest penal reformer of our lifetime," ventures Longford. Aitken told Frank that he is braced for prison, which he is determined to make "a positive experience".

Conversation was uplifting. ("In my recent adversities," remarked Aitken, "I have found my religion not a crutch to lean on but a challenge to rise to.") He concluded that there can be "no forgiveness for oneself without first truly forgiving others". Who, I wonder, does *he* have to forgive?



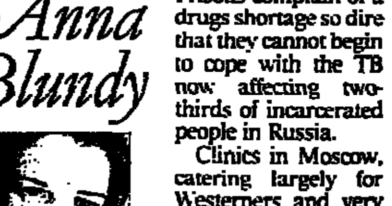
● *THE clumsy gagging of the Stephen Lawrence report by Jack Straw might never have happened if his special adviser, Ed Owen, had seen the sympathetic play about the murdered teenager. He attempted to do so last week, but was forced to cancel when the troublesome report landed with a thud on his desk.*

High hurdle

ATTEMPTS by Mark Phillips to become a self-supporting adult have been thwarted. His plans to build an equestrian centre at Aston Farm, his pad in the Cotswolds, have been hit by local objectors and the meddling local council. I trust one of the grumblers was not his ex-missus, the Princess Royal, who lives up the road at Gatcombe.

JASPER GERARD

'There has been some talk of mashing up an unspecified part of pig's intestine with honey and taking that three times a day until you are better'



Anna Blundy

Never mind Boris Yeltsin. The whole of Russia is ill. There is hardly a well person this side of the Urals. Horrible new strains of tuberculosis are sweeping the country and the flu epidemic seems to have confined almost everyone to bed. Not that this isn't in any case where most people want to be as the snow sets about its hideous three or four months of grim, grey melting, but that is beside the point.

Unfortunately, being unwell here means being subjected to the various available cures, most of which involve honey and vodka in huge quantities. If you see someone in a restaurant ordering only a bottle of vodka and a bowl of honey which they spoon into their mouth like ice-cream, you can be sure that this person has a cold or flu.

Of course, simply taking these hugely reliable medicines orally is the least of your worries. There are those who recommend soaking bits of rag in hot vodka and melted honey and then wrapping the marinated pieces of material around your throat and chest for days. There has also been some talk of mashing up an unspecified part of pig's intestine with honey and taking that three times a day until you are better. In either case, you would have good reason to claim to be well again long before you actually were, thus giving great satisfaction to the crazed crone who had suggested the treatments in the first place.

All kinds of forest berries need to be mashed into a bitter "*mors*", to be drunk as often as possible, and very nice it is, too, but no substitute for a course of antibiotics and a Beechams Hot Lemon. This, unsurprisingly, is the problem.

The heavy reliance on old wives' remedies here is not simply a romantic nostalgia for the pastoral idyll, nor the Russian equivalent of the Western backlash against conventional medicine. Russians put their faith in herbs and tree barks because the cutting edge of Western medicine is available to so few of them.

There is a terrible shortage of the most basic medicines, and what is available is often imported and increasingly expensive. There are now chemists in Moscow whose pharmacies do not look a lot worse than Boots, but a packet of Neurofen would clean out the average monthly pension and the number of people who can afford the imported preparations is vanishing into insignificance. Prisons complain of a drugs shortage so dire that they cannot begin to cope with the TB now affecting two-thirds of incarcerated people in Russia.

Clinics in Moscow, catering largely for Westerners and very rich Russians, put the emphasis on "repatriation" for serious illness, usually meaning a mad dash for Finland, although they can stabilise a patient and treat non-life-threatening complaints, if you are rich enough. Their doors are covered in the stickers of the various credit cards they accept and they all ask how you will be paying before they ask how you are. The old phone book entry for the American Medical Centre read "24-Hour Service. Hard Currency".

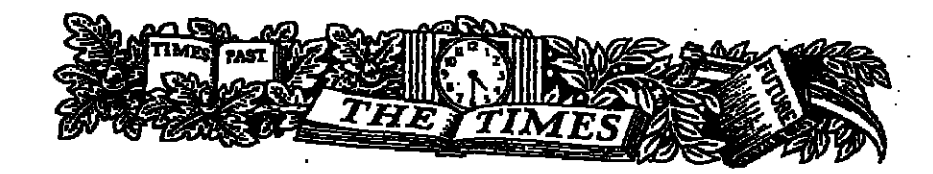
If a child is ill, one is forced to face the fact that Russian children's hospitals relieve you of your baby at the door and you do not see the child again until it is better and you are allowed to come and retrieve it. This is the case even when serious operations and extremely long stays are involved. The childcare advice gleaned from the Russian desk staff at the various Western clinics does not differ much from that provided by the average old woman in the street — there is an obsession with the wearing of masks even around children who are already ill (perhaps simply to amuse them?) and it is considered vital to make the child eat garlic to fight infection.

In an emergency, calling an ambulance would be the last rather than the first resort. Walking around Moscow and seeing the ancient, rusting ambulances (pathetically labelled "quick help") languishing in traffic jams and pushing in vain against the walls of slush on the street is disheartening in the extreme for anyone weighing up the possibility of calling one. It is by no means unheard of for underpaid paramedics to supplement their incomes by picking up fares in the ambulance after hours.

Naturally, there will be those who say that Russia has the best doctors in the world, that the healthcare system here rivals the most sophisticated in Europe — but they would be wrong. Russian doctors are cripplingly underpaid and the hospitals are catastrophically ill-equipped and underfunded, leaving most people to put their faith in the kind of natural remedies that might ease a sore throat, but will do nothing to fight pneumonia.

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SPUN OUT

This time Straw should have walked on by

When a government bans the media from reporting a story it must have good reason to do so. No such reason supported the Government's decision to prevent the reporting of a leaked copy of the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. Although it took the Home Secretary less than 24-hours to realise the error of his ways, his initial overreaction was that of an administration that too habitually depends on management of the news.

Previous governments have, sometimes with good reason, banned the dissemination of information which might have endangered national security. The contents of Sir William McPherson's report plainly do not fall into that category. Instead this was a fit of pique that the carefully planned "spin" for the launch of the report on Wednesday has been upset. Jack Straw may have had perfectly good reasons for wanting to present the report in a particular way. He presumably hoped this week's debate would focus on the issue of race relations and the modernisation of the Metropolitan Police. There was nothing that he could do about the leak. But now, thanks to his cackhanded overreaction, he has distracted attention away from the police handling of Mr Lawrence's murder onto the Government's handling of the Press.

Mr Straw claims that he was motivated by a desire to protect Mr Lawrence's family and the Metropolitan Police, and a respect for Parliament. Not one of these reasons stands up to scrutiny. Members of Mr Lawrence's family said they had no objection to the press reporting the story. The police have already been subjected to months of criticism which they have been unable to rebut as their inquiry was still underway. The Government has regularly treated Parliament with disrespect verging on contempt. Numerous reports and announcements have been leaked in advance. Ministers regularly unveil new policies in front of television cameras or radio microphones before doing so at the dispatch box.

Not only was the Home Secretary's case defective, his action was ineffective. The injunction had all the qualities of a sieve. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the newspaper containing the story had already been printed and distributed before the injunction was imposed. The news had already been broadcast on national bulletins. The injunction did not apply in Scotland nor could Mr Straw prevent the story being disseminated on the Internet. By lunchtime yesterday, the Home Secretary was properly under fire for an impetuous and rash act.

In Opposition, new Labour prided itself on its devotion to open government. Much was made of a Freedom of Information Act for which Mr Straw is now responsible, and of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Now ministers appear to support freedom of expression so long as it is not critical of the Government or does not throw a spanner into the works of Whitehall's well-oiled news management machine.

The murder of Stephen Lawrence raises a series of disturbing issues not least the vexed question of how the canker of deeply embedded racism can be excised from the police. It would be deeply unfortunate if Mr Straw's inept attempt to gag the news backfired and made reform more difficult. Last week, the Home Secretary was lecturing the public not to "walk on by" when confronted with a public misdemeanour, but to intervene. On this occasion he should have had the good sense to turn the other cheek.

RANTING AND RAVING

Nobody is listening to Mugabe anymore

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has long been intolerant of criticism and prone to blaming others for his own mistakes. The IMF, he claims, withholds money to manipulate Zimbabwe's economy for its own ends; the independent-minded judiciary is made up of British spies; white farmers (who earn 40% of the country's foreign exchange) are colonial oppressors. Perhaps only World Jewry is absent from his list of usual suspects.

External attempts to arrest Zimbabwe's descent into the economic depths have frequently been blocked by his intemperate tongue. Now he has dashed all hopes of next month's planned handover of the latest tranche of IMF balance-of-payments support. In a state television interview on Saturday night, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, he appeared unsettled, nervous and defensive. And in an incoherent fifty minute rant he made an unrestrained, near-paranoid attack on the forces which have stopped his country descending into chaos. Suddenly he seemed not just intolerant, but ineffectual. At least his previous assaults were delivered with a certain amount of brio. Now, his near-hysteria seemed to reinforce what many had suspected. No-one is listening to Mr Mugabe any more.

His unreason is a product of a strangely encouraging development. Despite the opposition's scanty representation — only three MPs are not from the ruling Zanu-PF — the last few months have seen a huge range of people using peaceful, legitimate forms of protest. Their power is increasing. Mr Mugabe's recent attempts to create an even more malleable political process were blocked by the National Constitutional Assembly, a group of 40 predominantly black non governmental organisations. Zapu 2000 was formed in Matabeleland two months ago. Drawing on memories of ethnic oppression in the early 1980s, as well as resentment of Zanu-PF, it already has huge support. And the black-run Zimbabwe Integration Project educates rural people in the constitutional rights on which Mr Mugabe is so happy to trample.

Six months ago no-one would have believed that Zanu-PF might lose next year's election. But the political landscape has changed completely. The township population, its living standards far worse than under the Smith regime, has long craved law and order and an end to corruption; soldiers in fighting order patrol the shanties at the slightest sign of dissent. But last month's detention and torture of two journalists from the Zimbabwe Standard — for having the temerity to report on intra-Army opposition to Mr Mugabe's absurd, unwinnable adventure in the Congo — has turned the black middle class against Mr Mugabe. Any anti-government demonstration — by constitutional activists, trade unionists, even lawyers — is cheered by passers-by. Only the kleptocrats stand behind him. And they are indulging in an orgy of theft as if aware that their days in power are numbered.

There is a real danger that these same kleptocrats might choose to delay the inevitable by holding a rigged election under martial law. There is a strong precedent; Mr Mugabe only ended the UDI era's state of emergency in 1991, just in time for him to host a Commonwealth Heads of State conference. But Mr Mugabe and his party are so discredited that outlawing opposition would simply radicalise it. His intolerance and irrationality have created the situation where he faces a stark choice; reform or resign. The tragedy is that he may be without the political or personal strength to do either.

MODERN STANDARDS

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award shifts with the times

Youngsters' standards have changed a great deal since the Duke of Edinburgh's Gordonstoun days. Short trousers and icy morning plunges are no part of a modern teenager's routine. Without change, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, inspired by the Duke's own experiences at school, could decline into an outmoded middle age. The sort of enterprise it tries to foster can still smack of a hearty postwar lifestyle. For today's urban teenager, computers are more relevant than compasses, on-screen skills are just as formative as interfacing with a cliff. But most importantly, individual interests and passions can prove much more inspiring than prescribed projects. For teenagers struggling to forge their personalities, these should be fostered not discouraged.

Today, organisers announce that the rules of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are to alter in order to get back in touch with today's teenagers. Such proposals accord with that principle of flexibility long considered one of the strengths of the scheme. Originally intended to attract participants from all walks of life, the scheme was supposed to mix youngsters from school groups, colleges, cadet units and detention centres and encourage in them principles of leadership and enterprise. Recently, however, research has suggested that increasingly it has become the preserve of the middle classes and — for boys at least, more perturbing still — it has been dominated by girls.

The problem stems from the introduction of a "skills" section to the scheme two years after its 1956 launch. This, at first, was specifically for girls who were clamouring to compete for what had been, at the outset, a boys-only prize. The sexes were segregated at the beginning. But with Sixties expectations of equality, the two awards were merged.

Patience is a virtue which hot-blooded boys often lack in adolescence. To pass the skills section of the award, candidates must devote at least an hour a week to a subject chosen from a prescribed list. And male teenagers, apparently, are not naturally adapted to such perseverence. For all their strength, stamina or practicality in the field, they are beaten by that particular girl power of dogged persistence. At a self conscious age when "cool" is a cardinal asset, boys are deterred.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award still holds its value in the contemporary world. Quite apart from its admirable social principles, it offers young people a sense of adventure and achievement. It would be sad if such timeless attractions were fenced in by fusty strictures intended for an outmoded age. Youth culture is built on shifting foundations of fashion and taste. And if old institutions are to cater for it, they must make every effort to stay young.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Straw's proposal seen as 'sinister'

From the Director of the Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain

Sir, Jack Straw's proposed legislation (report, February 16) that "dangerous and severely personally disordered individuals from whom the public are not properly protected" could be locked up for an indeterminate period if it were thought they had the potential to act in criminal ways, even though they had not at that time committed a criminal act, is quite the most sinister statement I have heard in this country.

The proposed legislation is spine-chilling and must be resisted. If it were enacted severely mentally ill people suffering from schizophrenia and their families would never be free of the fear that it would be the easiest thing in the world for a psychiatrist to change their diagnosis to psychopathy, so that they could be locked up for an indeterminate time, having committed no criminal act.

Hospital must remain the only place of sanctuary and treatment for all the mentally ill. All of them are potentially treatable, whatever the diagnosis, including that of personality disorder.

Yours sincerely,
GWYNNETH HEMMINGS,
Director,
Schizophrenia Association
of Great Britain,
International Schizophrenia Centre,
Bryn Hyfryd, The Crescent,
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2AG.
February 16.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, During the 26 years I was a Supreme Court judge I sometimes had to deal with an offender whom psychiatrists, in reports to the court, had described as having an untreatable severe personality disorder which could not be dealt with under the Mental Health Act.

They never defined what they meant by such a condition. I inferred that the person upon whom they were reporting lacked any moral sense and was insensitive to, or unable to appreciate, the harm which his conduct did to his victims. This might have been genetic in origin or the consequence of upbringing or circumstances.

Much more often I had to deal with offenders who did have a moral sense and who, of their free will, chose to offend because they thought that they would benefit from doing so, no matter what harm they would do to their victims. In language seldom used these days, they were wicked.

Should not the wicked be sentenced at least as severely as those with severely disordered personalities, perhaps more so? This will not apply under the Home Secretary's proposals for indeterminate sentences (which might be for life) for the latter, and fixed sentences for the wicked. These proposals may please many members of the public. But are they just?

Mr Straw will probably have difficulty in persuading Parliament that he has found a statutory definition of severe personality disorder which would not apply to some Members.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York YO3 6XX.
February 16.

From Mr Harry Smith

Sir, I read with dismay of Jack Straw's initiative to detain those with potentially dangerous personality disorders before they have committed any crime, and am put in mind of recent proposals requiring those working with children to disclose "relevant non-conviction information" (report, later editions, December 15, 1998).

The former betrays a lack of respect for fundamental human rights. The latter betrays a lack of faith in our criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SMITH
(Undergraduate),
St John's College,
Cambridge CB2 1TP.

From Mr B. K. Levy

Sir, Magna Carta says: "No free man shall be taken or imprisoned save by lawful judgment of his peers . . ."

Compulsory reading for the Home Secretary?

Yours etc,
B. K. LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3SR.
February 17.

From Mr Lawrence Parkyn

Sir, May I take this opportunity to offer Mr Straw the services of a company which I am considering forming — "Gulags 'R' Us" — to provide suitable accommodation for the increased population of detainees.

Yours,
LAWRIE PARKYN,
1 Medway Close, Barugh Green,
Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 1NY.
February 17.

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, The Home Secretary proposes to lock up people who are a danger to the general public. Could this be the Government's attempt at self-regulation?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TAYLOR,
9 Well View Road,
Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2AU.
February 16.

Echoes of a former foreign policy

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, Surely there are two Simon Jenkinses who write for you. The one, as J. K. Stephen's parody of Wordsworth has it, is "of the deep". The other "of an old half-witted sheep".

Proto-Jenkins writes on matters of domestic concern — trenchant, well thought and argued, evidence of wide experience, reading and thought. Deutero-Jenkins writes on foreign affairs. His main models appear to be those prior masters of *Times* editorials in the 1930s and 1940s, Mr Geoffrey Dawson and Professor E. H. Carr — believers in their different ways in the do-nothing approach to international problems, believers too in the doctrine that foreigners do not read British newspapers and that nothing they may do or write can lead to misunderstandings of British opinion and willingness to act.

Deutero-Jenkins (today, for instance) asks why we should do anything about the massacres in Kosovo, or the sufferings of the Kurds. Apart from the point that the present Kurdish position has a good deal to do with Lord Curzon's and Mr Bonar Law's misjudgments in 1922 (when the latter wrote an influential letter to your journal arguing that Britain should not and could not afford to play "policeman to the world", and Ataturk's new Turkey incorporated large numbers of Kurds in its eastern borders), both Serbia and its neighbours and Turkey wish to become members of the European community with a small "c".

This implies that they must adopt standards of behaviour which are acceptable and defensible by the standards of their European neighbours, imperfectly applied though those latter may be.

As for Sierra Leone, Deutero-Jenkins should recognise that we have direct financial and commercial interests in that unhappy country.

None of which implies that the present official British policy is either wise or well judged. It does imply that inaction is abdication.

Please, Mr Jenkins, put your second personality back in the closet with the ghosts of Dawson and Carr.

Yours etc,
D. CAMERON WATT,
London School of Economics and
Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.
February 19.

Turkey and the Kurds

From the Ambassador of Turkey

Sir, During both the Cold War and the Gulf War, Turkey was a staunch ally of the Western world, sometimes at considerable cost to itself. We are currently Britain's largest trading partner in the whole of the Balkans, Near and Middle East and southern Mediterranean. Around a million British people visit us each year.

Yet during the last few days it has become obvious that much of the British media feed on myths and untruths where Turkey is concerned. In reporting the return of Abdullah Ocalan, no newspaper or TV station that I know of — with the exception of *The Times* — has emphasised his record and the reasons why he is going on trial. Few reported, for instance, that his arrest occurred because even the Greek officials sheltering him found it completely impossible to stay under the same roof as him.

The violence of pro-PKK demonstrators, people who pour petrol on the police, was played down. Their hostage-taking was hardly condemned. PKK attitudes were made to sound much more conciliatory than they in fact are: PKK leaders have regularly spoken about having a revolution in the whole of Turkey and destroying all the political parties which exist there today.

Many of the top people in Turkey in every walk of life are of Kurdish background and always have been. Many of the people fighting the PKK at every level, are Kurdish. There is a drive to channel resources to south-eastern Turkey for economic regeneration, and the capture of Ocalan and the defeat of the PKK will speed the process. Few of these facts have been widely reported.

This partiality has shocked many observers and is bound to leave serious question marks in the mind of the Turkish public. Our two countries are partners and allies. A substantial section of British opinion seems actively to support armed terrorism and lawbreaking, and even to endorse the notion of the forcible partition of a friendly European country.

Those who take this line — and again I exclude *The Times* from their number — are simply fostering violent militancy among the emigrant groups in Europe who staged the demonstrations. These groups are now part of British and German society. If they are given false expectations and encouraged to drift towards ever more desperate extremism, it is Britain and other Western European countries that will have to live with the consequences.

Yours sincerely,
OZDEM SANBERK,
The Turkish Embassy,
43 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8PA.
February 21.

Fact and fiction on TV

From the BBC's Controller of Editorial Policy

Sir, I wish to clarify any doubts your readers may have as a result of your report (February 13, earlier editions) on the recent changes to the BBC producers' guidelines on the portrayal of real people in drama.

The BBC is not about to sanction "sensationalised portrayals" nor has it "quietly" scrapped its guideline. It has, however, made clear that there will be certain circumstances, clearly defined, where we consider it would be appropriate to proceed with a portrayal even though a particular individual has not given consent.

At its best, drama based on real-life situations can provide a powerful and illuminating insight into subjects. However, it is a drama form which must be used judiciously and which must always carefully balance the rights of the individual portrayed with the freedom of creative expression.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP HARDING,
Controller, Editorial Policy,
BBC,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1A 1AA.
February 18.

From Dr David Bates

Sir, After the recent revelations about the *The Vanessa Show* (letters, February 13 and 18) and now about *Countdown* (report, February 19), I fear it is only a matter of time before those responsible finally admit that shows such as *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* are nothing more than a fiction peopled by actors.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BATES,
109 Limes Road, Hardwick,
Cambridge CB3 7XU.
david.bates@dako.co.uk
February 19.

Fair deal?

From Mr Ralph King

Sir, Drinking alcohol can become a dependency with miserable results. It should be subsidised. Smoking tobacco is addictive and causes cancer, heart disease and early death. It also should be subsidised. The comfortably well off, who can afford foreign travel, should be subsidised at the expense of the infirm and the less well off. The more often they travel, the more they should be subsidised.

If you wanted to market this outrageous collection of ideas, you would call it "Duty Free" (report, later editions, February 18).

Yours faithfully,
R. A. KING,
1 Station Cottages,
Longhirst, Morpeth
Northumberland NE61 3HY.
rak@ralphking.freeserve.co.uk
February 18.

From Professor Emeritus Felix Weinberg, FRS

Sir, Will not the vast spaces shortly to be released in all the Heathrow terminals by the abolition of duty-free shopping render any plans for a fifth terminal unnecessary?

Yours faithfully,
FELIX WEINBERG,
59 Vicarage Road, SW14 8RY.
February 19.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Sale of art fakes

From Mr David Gould

Sir, Some readers will have been amused by the front-page headline, "Art world corrupted by £250 fakes" (February 13). There are many of us who look upon much of the modern art scene as questionable rubbish which is hyped and perhaps corruptly exploited anyway.

It does not require much technical skill to emulate modern daubs, and it is a sobering thought that a dubious provenance can be passed off as a watertight guarantee of authentication.

Thirty years ago, when I was investigating the pastiche Samuel Palmers by Tom Keating, I was amazed that the dealers and the auction houses seemed quite satisfied with the documentation which accompanied the fakes, in spite of the appalling lack of quality in the pictures.

Nowadays paintings and works of art have become another form of currency. Of course dealers and auctioneers welcome documentation. But it is sad to think that people trade and invest in paintings without being able to tell the difference between a fake and an artist's original.

"Perhaps it doesn't matter," as I gather Sickert said when he was asked to sign some fakes of his work — and did.

Yours truly,
DAVID GOULD,
Highcroft,,
South Woodchester,
Gloucestershire GL5 5EP.
February 14.

Call to rid Lords of its priests

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The UK is alone among European countries and leading Western democracies in having (in the bishops) *ex officio* representatives in the legislature.

In its White Paper on "modernising" the Lords, the Government justifies the retention of the bishops for the transitional period as it wants the Church (of England's) perspective to be "represented on all occasions when it would be particularly valuable". The Government also states that our society "has citizens [shouldn't that be subjects?] of many faiths *and of none* [my italics]. We shall be looking for ways of increasing the representation in the Lords of other religious traditions."

Retaining the English bishops disadvantages the third of the population who do not believe. Being unable to muster even three quarters of a million communicants, the C of E cannot justly claim to be representative. Adding further faiths will turn the Lords into a sectarian synod.

I urge those who really do want modernisation to persuade the royal commission considering these matters to recommend removal of all *ex officio* religious representatives in the modernised second chamber, so that we can enter the 21st century having made a further step towards democracy.

If such a recommendation were made, we trust that the Government, despite its stated views and those of individual members of the Cabinet, would be prepared to give effect to it.

Yours faithfully,
K. PORTEOUS WOOD,
General Secretary,
National Secular Society,
25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL.
February 18.

Over and out

From Mrs George Llewellyn

Sir, May I add a word about your leading article and correspondence (February 12 and 18) on the Morse code. My father, Captain R. J. B. Bolitho, who was an inventor and wireless expert, recognising that every Morse code operator had a rhythm which was as peculiar to them as their handwriting, devised a method (aptly named Tinea, Latin for tapeworm) of punching this signature on to tape; this made it possible to separate genuine messages from those sent by the enemy using codebooks taken from captured agents.

A valuable dossier was also built up of German wireless operators whereby ships, of which the *Bismarck* was one, could be located.

Yours faithfully,
LOVEDAY LLEWELLYN,
Nethercott Farm, Oakford,
Tiverton, Devon EX19 9EU.
February 19.

Period residence

From Mr Graham R. Dunn

Sir, The scorn poured by Mr Guy de la Bédoyère (letter, February 11) on your report that the Romans had arrived in the Lincoln area "about 42BC" is only partly fair.

The "des res with a slice of history" which was the subject of your report could well have been simply the home and business-centre-in-Britain of an early merchant adventurer, from which goods would have been either sold — money was in use in Britain even in pre-Roman times — or bartered for goods to be later exported to Rome or wherever. Lincoln, at the eastern end of the Bronze Age road known as the Fosse Way and close to the Icknield Way, would have been ideally placed for such a venture.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM R. DUNN,
19 Park Court,
North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9AN.
February 16.

The English identity

From Mrs Rosemary Kirk

Sir, In 11 years in England I have never encountered one negative reaction to my Scottish accent, although I have received many interested and positive comments on it. What English person living in Scotland can say the same? Regrettably, the eagerness of many of my fellow Scots to criticise their southern neighbours at every opportunity is only confirmed by your recent correspondence (February 9, 13, 17; see also report, "English couple sue 'racist' Scots", February 18).

Married to an Englishman who accepts responsibility for half the housework and half the childcare, I could make a few blanket judgments myself — but I will leave Scottish wives to draw their own conclusions.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY KIRK,
20 High Beech Close,
St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 7TT.
rosemarykirk@senlac.com

From Dom Alberic Stacpoole, OSB

Sir, There is the old adage: "An Englishman is a self-made man, who worships his maker on Sundays."

Yours faithfully,
A. J. STACPOOLE,
Ampleforth Abbey, York YO62 4EN.
February 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the Wales v Ireland rugby football match at Wembley Stadium.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commodore Timothy Laurence, Royal Navy, this afternoon attended the England v Scotland match in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham, Middlesex.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 21: Mr Barry Ambrose and Mr Richard Cottrell were received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend CRASH (the Construction and property Inudstry's Charity for the Single Homeless) dinner at St James's Palace at 7.30.

The Duke of Kent, patron, British Menswear Guild, will attend the MXL exhibition and prizegiving, Earls Court, at 2.30, and will present the prizes for the European Window Display Competition.

Shrewsbury School

Music Awards 1999

The following Music Awards have been made:

Scholarships
E.J. Bass, Lichfield Cathedral School; J.F.C. Crichlow, Prestfelde; T.W. Jones, Prestfelde; A.S C. Kindred, Lichfield Cathedral School.

Awards
R.J. Anderton, Westminster Cathedral Choir School; T.K. Evans, Kingsland Grange; E.R. Harden, Summer Fields; A.A. MacFarlane, Birkenhead School.

Sixth Form Music Scholarship
A.G. Hughes, Shrewsbury Sixth Form College.

Winchester College

Music Scholarships 1999

VIth Form Awards
John Horsfield-Bradbury (King Edward VI School, Southampton); Rudy Capildeo (Brentwood School).

13+ Awards
Edward Daniel (Prebendal School); Mark Austin (Davenies School); Richard Tomsett (The Pilgrims' School); Alastair Wright (The Pilgrims' School); Nigel Day (St George's School Windsor); Hugo Vaughan-Hughes (Brambletye School); Richard Ellis (Castle Court School); Peter Currie (St Paul's Cathedral Choir School).

Minor Music Awards
Matthew Evans (Dulwich College Preparatory School); Richard Mabey (Arnold House School); Andrew Duncan (Eagle House School).

Birthdays today

Mr H.A. Ashmall, former Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 60; the Hon James Bethell, racehorse trainer, 47; Mr Michael Chang, tennis player, 27; Sir Michael Cobham, former chairman, Cobham, 72; Mr J.N. Ellis, trade unionist, 60; Mr Joseph Ettedgui, fashion designer, 63; Professor Sir Brian Follett, FRS, Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 60; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer, 71; Miss Deborah Grant, actress, 52; Miss Sheila Hancock, actress, 66; Miss Jocelyn Herbert, stage designer, 82; Mr Howard Hodgson, former chief executive, Ronson, 49; Mr Mike Hollingsworth, television executive, 53; Sir David Jack, FRS, pharmacologist, 75; Mr Peter Jacobs, former chief executive, BUPA, 56; Mr Edward Kennedy, American politician, 67; Sir John Kerr, diplomat, 57; the Earl of Kintore, 60; Miss Patricia Lancaster, former Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 70; Mr Niki Lauda, racing driver, 50; Miss Frances Line, former Controller, BBC Radio 2, 59; Mr Ian McColl, former Editor, Daily Express, 84; Mr Peter Geoffrey Mason, former High Master, Manchester Grammar School, 85; Sir Christopher Meyer, diplomat, 55; Sir John Mills, actor, producer and director, 91; Mr Tom Okker, tennis player, 55; Sir Christopher Peterson, former High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, 81; Mr Nigel Planer, actor, 46; Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, 60; Sir William Slack, former Serjeant Surgeon to the Queen, 74; Mr Ian Stark, showjumper, 45; Lord Strathclyde, 39; Dame Joan Varley, former Conservative Party agent, 79; Miss Julie Walters, actress, 49; Mr S.C. Whitbread, Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, 62.

Forces appointments

The Army

Colonel: N P Gaskell - to be Deputy Commander HQ Catterick Garrison - Feb 15; D F Davies to be Colonel SPS2 DSPS(A) - Feb 15; A M Hood - to be Colonel LSP4 - Feb 15.

Retirements

Brigadier: C D Parr - late INT Corps 21.2.99; P J Wagstaffe - late RA 15.2.99; J R Smales - late 14/20H 24.2.99.

Colonel: M J N Richards - late RA 19.2.99.

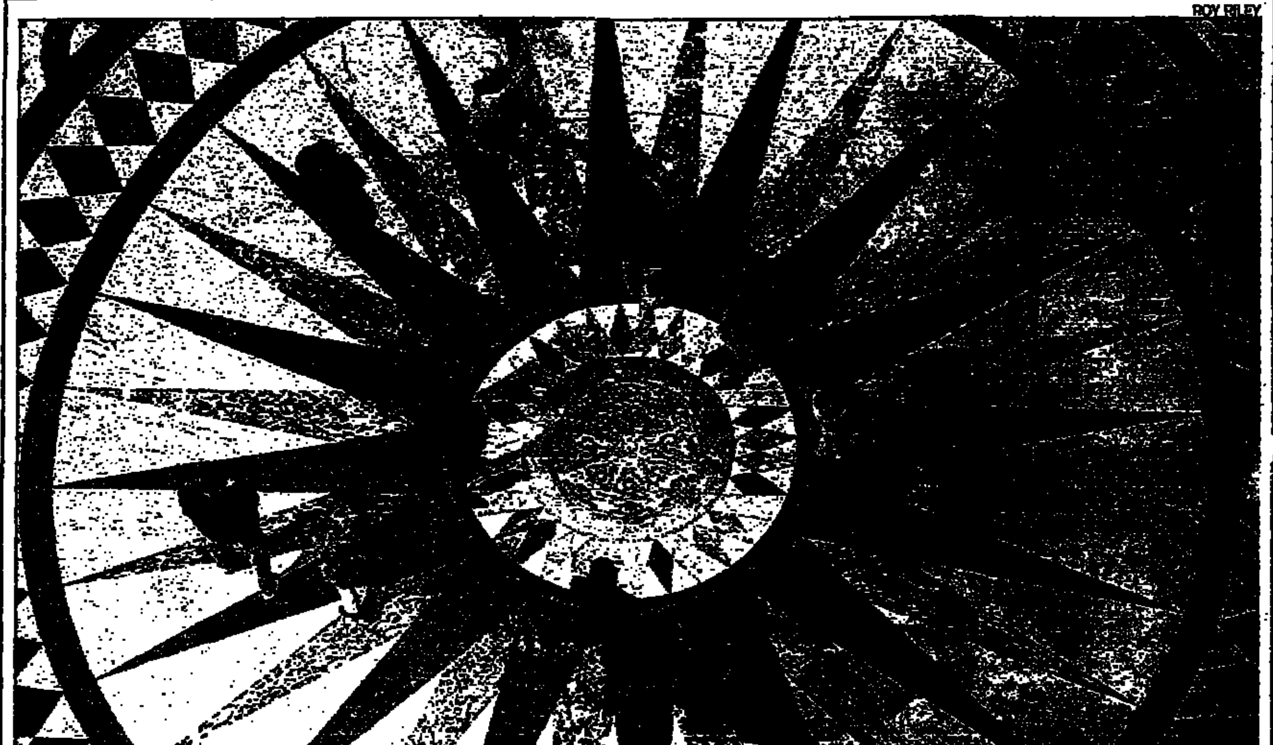
Royal Air Force

Retirements

Air Commodore: P R Thomas - AFPAA Innsworth, 26.2.99.

Group Captain: D H Anderson - RAF Uxbridge, 22.2.99; E C Foster - AFPAA Innsworth, 22.2.99; P J Gooding, 28.2.99; N Gregory HQ MATO, 22.2.99; P Roberts - D Airspace, 26.2.99; M R Trace - RAF PMA, 26.2.99.

Wing Commander: J M Cruickshank - RAF Brize Norton, 22.2.99; M P O'Sullivan - DSCA HQ 22.2.99.



ROY RILEY

The sunburst on the floor of St Paul's, open to view for the first time in many years as a result of interior reordering

St Paul's prepares for a facelift

Ruth Gledhill reports on a £50 million restoration of Wren's masterpiece

A £50 MILLION facelift is being planned for St Paul's Cathedral for the new millennium. The aim is to emphasise Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece as a centre of Christian mission rather than of tourism.

Important new works of art are to be commissioned and the interior reordered. The stone inside the cathedral, untouched since the Victorian era, is to be cleaned and restored.

The plans were disclosed by the new Dean, the Very Rev Dr John Moses, in an interview with *The Times*. The intention is to have the facelift, to be funded by sponsorship and an appeal, complete by 2020.

The proposals are the result of a "development group" appointed by the Dean and Chapter at the start of 1997. Although the group's report is confidential, it has led to the establishment of short-term working parties currently looking at how the cathedral can be better developed.

Dr Moses wants the cathedral geared up for three imminent anniversaries — the millennium in 2000, the golden jubilee of the Queen's accession in 2002, and the 1,400th anniversary of the London diocese in 2004.

The cathedral is visited by more than two million people each year and as many as 2,000 people turn up to worship at the main Sunday services alone. At present, the Dean and Chapter are in the process of appointing a new "director of fundraising" whose brief will be to "coordinate, manage and develop the cathedral's continuing needs for external sponsorship".

St Paul's has an annual income of about £4.5 million, with almost two-thirds coming from tourism and trading, just under a third from grants and trusts and the remainder from investments, legacies and other donations.

Dr Moses has already removed the old, temporary dais beneath the dome of the cathedral. A new altar, dais, bishop's throne and altar furnishings will be in place by Advent Sunday this year.

The traditional seating arrangements have also gone, to be replaced by seating "in the round". This leaves the "sunburst", the focal point of Wren's architecture beneath the dome, open to view for the first time in many years.

Holman Hunt's masterpiece, *The Light of the World*, has been moved from its inconspicuous aisle position to the Middlesex Chapel, where it has already become a focus for prayer and meditation. A new font has been commissioned for the nave. At present, the 85 baptisms each year take place in St Faith's chapel in the crypt.

The new works of art to be commissioned are expected to include large crosses to hang in front of the entrance and exit doors, as well as modern paintings and icons to be placed elsewhere around the cathedral.

"It is very difficult to be quiet in St Paul's," Dr Moses said, "but we can provide places where people can stop and be still. We are looking at places such as the barrel vaults as people come in, so that the first thing that greets them is the Christian symbol of the cross.

"Also the cathedral interior is extremely dirty. There will be a massive programme of cleaning, both inside and outside the cathedral. We are just completing some experimental cleaning of the stone. This will not come from admission charges."

Adults pay £4 to enter, although there are concessions and admission for private prayer and for services. On Sundays, admission is free.

Dr Moses has already increased the number of Sunday services from three to five. He said: "We are setting out to make St Paul's a place where people pray. That is difficult in a very busy cathedral."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.O. Chapman and Miss E.M. Collins
The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs R.W. Chapman, of Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire, and Ellen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W.P. Collins, of Canton, New York.

Mr P. Cicchiné and Miss M.R. Joseph
The engagement is announced between Paolo, only son of Mr and Mrs Mauro Cicchiné, of Rome, Italy, and Marcelle, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Joseph, of Naples, New York.

Mr A.J. Dimond and Miss E.H. Parr
The engagement is announced between Tony, only son of Mr and Mrs Roger Dimond, of Claygate, Surrey, and Elisabeth, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Eric Parr, of Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr G.J. Dougherty and Miss H.K. Simpson
The engagement is announced between George, son of the late Mr and Mrs T.G.C. Dougherty, of Goathurst, Somerset, and Heather, daughter of Mrs Annabelle Simpson, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Mr T.A. Green and Miss H.R. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Major and Mrs Edward Green, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, and Helen, only daughter of Mr Michael Hughes, of The Waterside, Singapore, and Mrs Patricia Hughes, of The Bayshore, Singapore.

Mr T.C.H. Greenaway and Miss C.E. Barton
The engagement is announced between Tristan Charles Hampden, son of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Greenaway, of Hove, Sussex, and Caroline Emily, daughter of Mr Michael Barton, of Pishill, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Christopher Hawker, of Aston Tirrold, Oxfordshire.

Mr P.A. Lott and Miss L.H. Hoare
The engagement is announced between Paul Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Lott, of Poole, and Louisa Hope, elder daughter of Sir Timothy and Lady Hoare, of Islington, London.

Mr B.L. Mercer and Miss S.M. Basden
The engagement is announced between Benjamin Lawson, son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Mercer, of Newport, Rhode Island, USA, and Sarah Margaret, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Ralph Basden, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.B. Singleton-McGuire and Miss S.C. Wells
The engagement is announced between Raymond, only son of Mrs J.A. Neal, of Boston, Lincolnshire, and Susan, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Henry Wells, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.E.H. Smith and Miss S.M. Bain
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Mr Herbert Smith and of Mrs Elizabeth Smith, of Glastonbury, Somerset, and Susan, daughter of Dr Neville Bain, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Mrs Jocelyn Linton, of Balsall Common, West Midlands.

Mr M.D.StJ. Tibbitts and Miss F.M. Walker
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr St John Tibbitts, of Felsted, Essex, and the late Mrs Tibbitts, and Fleur, daughter of Mr Michael Walker, of Halesowen, West Midlands, and Mrs Pam Walker, of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr J.G. Tormann and Miss J. Davies
The engagement is announced between Georg, son of Mr and Mrs Klaus Tormann, of Bromley, Kent, and Jo, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Davies, of Swanley, Kent.

Marriage

Wing Commander C.L. Bond and Ms J.M. Savery
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 20, at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Bracknell, between Wing Commander Colin Bond and Ms Jenny Savery.

Sir George Waller

A memorial service for Sir George Waller, OBE, will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Monday, March 29, at 5pm.

Service dinners

I Squadron HAC
Lieutenant-Colonel D.A.H. Shaw, Commanding Officer, 40 Regiment RA, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of I Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held on Friday at Armoury House. Major A.D.C. Caie presided. Lieutenant C.V. Marment and Captain A.T. Pickersgill also spoke.

RAF Strike Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Allison received the guests at a ladies guest night dinner held on Friday at Headquarters Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe, to mark the retirement of Squadron Leader J. Barber, Squadron Leader M. O'Reilly, Squadron Leader D. Lyons, Flight Lieutenant W. Bissett and Flight Lieutenant S. Pittaway. Group Captain J.W. White presided. The Countess of Buckinghamshire, Sir Raymond Whitney, MP, and Lady Whitney, and Mr M. Oliver were also present.

Dinners

London Mayors' Association
The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea presided at the annual dinner of the London Mayors' Association held on Saturday at the Town Hall, Kensington and Chelsea. The Lord Mayor *locum tenens*, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Brian Harris, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster were among those present.

The Earl of Lauderdale
Field Marshal Lord Inge was the guest speaker at a dinner of the *Defence and Security Forum held* on Friday at the House of Lords and sponsored by the Earl of Lauderdale. Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair. Colonel Philip Howes, chairman, also spoke.

Gardeners' Company
Mr N.A. Chalmers, Master of the Gardeners' Company, presided at a livery and ladies dinner held on Friday at the Mansion House. The Upper Warden and Alderman Sir Christopher Walford also spoke. Among others present were:

Lady Walford, Mr Sheriff and Mrs Brian Harris, the Master of the Wax Chandlers' Company and Mrs Bailey and the Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow and Mrs Yeoman.

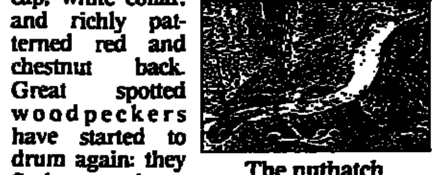
Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby
Mr Ian Fisher, President of the Merchant Taylors' Old Boys' Association (Old Crosbeians), presided at the annual London dinner held on Friday at the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr Frank Mercer, school governor, and Mr Martin Brandon-Bravo, President of the Amateur Rowing Association, also spoke. The Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, the President of the Old Merchant Taylors' Society and the chairman of the society were among those present.

Appointments

Lady Milford and Mr William Sieghart have been appointed Trustees of the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust.

Nature notes

Reed buntings are singing again in willow trees and on the swaying tops of reeds. It is one of the most monotonous bird songs in Britain, consisting of a few croaky notes continually repeated. However, the males are now looking very handsome, with a black cap, white collar, and richly patterned red and chestnut back. Great spotted woodpeckers have started to drum again: they find a resinant tree trunk or telegraph pole and hammer it rapidly with their strong beak. This is their equivalent to singing in other birds, attracting females and warning off rivals. Nuthatches are whistling in the tree tops, and tree-creepers are delivering a thin, whispering song as they climb up the trunks. The mild weather last week brought some wild flowers into bloom a fortnight earlier than usual. Some of the bushes in the blackthorn hedges had linen white flowers opening on them along the dark prickly twigs. On ivy-covered banks the blue flowers of lesser periwinkle could be found, while the first lesser celandines were opening their yellow petals in damp, sheltered spots. There are carpets of dog's mercury in some woods, and on many plants the tiny yellow flowers are already out. DJM



The nuthatch

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: George Washington, 1st American President 1789-97, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Gdansk, 1788; Thomas Winter, pugilist, Witchend, near Fownhope, Herefordshire, 1795; James Lowell, poet and diplomat, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1819; Robert Baden-Powell, Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, London, 1857 (his wife Olave, World Chief Guide, was born on this day, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, 1889); Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Hamburg, 1857; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Brighton, 1882; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Rockland, Maine, 1892; Luis Bunuel, Spanish film director, Calanda, 1900.

DEATHS: David Bruce, David II, King of Scotland, reigned 1329-71, Edinburgh, 1371; Amerigo Vespucci, merchant and adventurer, Seville, 1512; Jean Pierre de Crousaz, philosopher, Lausanne, 1750; James Barry, painter, London, 1806; Adam Ferguson, philosopher, St Andrews, 1816; Sydney Smith, clergyman and wit, London, 1845; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, London, 1875; Jean-Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1875; Hugo Wolf, lieder composer, Vienna, 1903; Stefan Zweig, novelist, Petropolis, Brazil, 1942; Elizabeth Bowen, novelist, London, 1973; Oskar Kokoschka, painter, Switzerland, 1980; Andy Warhol, painter, New York, 1987; Solomon, pianist, London, 1988.

Spain ceded Florida to the United States, 1819.

Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first "five and ten cent" store in Utica, New York, 1879.

The Times ran the first classified personal column, 1886.

Dr Selman Abraham Waksman announced his discovery of the antibiotic streptomycin, 1946.

University news

Oxford
Trinity College
The following elections and awards have been made at Trinity College, Oxford:

To an Official Fellowship in Biochemistry from October 1:
Louis C. Mahadevan, BSc New Delhi, MSc PhD London, Head of the Division of Biomolecular Sciences, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Biomedical Sciences.

To a Junior Research Fellowship in Physics from October 1:
Samuel Alexander Morgan, BA St John's College, Oxford.

To a Ford Scholarship in Modern History:
Arkady James Nathaniel Hodge, formerly of Stewart's & Melville College, Edinburgh.

Oxford
Queen's College,
To Honorary Fellowships: Professor F.G.B. Millar, MA, DPhil, DLitt, FBA; Professor O.W. Sacks, MA, BM, BCh; T.J. Berners-Lee, MA.

To an Official Fellowship & Praelectorship in Law (from October 1): N C Bamforth, BCL, MA, of Worcester College & Robinson College, Cambridge.

Oxford
Jesus College
John Anthony Caldwell, MA, DPhil, FRCO, has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship from January 1.
Karen Jessica Bakker (BA & Sc McMaster) has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship from October 1, in Environmental Change and Dr Julia Tamsin Prest, BA (Birm), PhD (Camb), in Modern Languages, from the same date.

Westminster
The university has made the following honorary award:
Stanley Martin, former diplomat, has been made an Honorary Fellow.

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The LORD hates peope who cheat. Deuteronomy 25.16 (GNB)

BIRTHS

KERR - On February 15th 1999 to Sarah (neé Moss) and David a daughter Clementine Rose, a sister for Sophie, Camilla and Alexander.

MNEIMNE - On January 30th to Suzanne and Faphi, a beautiful daughter, Amani.

SHAW - On February 15th to Melanie (née Shaw) and Simon, a daughter, Madeleine Julia Clarissa, a sister for Charlie and Rosanna.

DEATHS

BAILEY - Roger Samuel. Died peacefully after a long and courageous fight with brain cancer on Friday February 19th 1999 at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. Much adored husband of Jane beloved father of Mark, Lucy and Richard and grandfather of Jerome, Oliver and Jasper brother of Christopher and respected friend and colleague. Thanksgiving service to be held on Monday March 8th 1999 at St. Ternan's Episcopal Church, Banchory at 2.00 pm followed by a private burial. Family flowers only please. Donations to Cancer Research Campaign.

BROWN - John on 19th February 1999, peacefully at Homeward House nursing home Westbury-On-Trym. Beloved husband of Marian (deceased) loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. Enquiries to R. Davies & Sons 01179 628 954

DEATHS

CLINCH - Gaby Evelyn. Peacefully on 18th February aged 85 years. Dearly loved wife of Stanley, beloved mother of Anthony and grandmother of Ben and Emily. Funeral Service at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham on Thursday 25th February at 10.30 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Reynaud's and Scleroderma Assoc. (Charity 326306), 112 Crewe Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2JA.

CRAWLEY - Patrick Hugh Stewart, on February 19, in a tragic accident while on holiday in New Zealand. A Memorial Service will be held later in Hertingfordbury

DARNELL - Gillie peacefully at home on February 18th. Funeral at Holy Trinity Penn, Bucks at 12.30 on Thursday 26th February. No flowers, donations if wished to the Iain Rennie Hospice At Home, The Cedar Barn, Hazlemere, Bucks, HP15 7DW

GOULD - Valerie, passed away on February 19th 1999, aged 93 years. Wife of late Dr. Frank E. Gould, beloved mother of Juliet Froomberg, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation at Birmingham Crematorium, Perry Barr on Wednesday February 24th at 12.30pm. Prayers in The Liberal and Progressive Synagogue, Sheepcote Street at 7.30pm. No flowers please, but donations to St Mary's Hospice, 176 Raddlebarn Road, Birmingham B29.

HEINEMANN - William, peacefully at Devonshire Court R.M.B.I. Home on 17th February 1999, aged 84. Loving husband of Mollie, beloved father of Tricia and Tara, grandfather of Jamie and Richard. A gentle man. Cremation service at Oakley Wood, Bishops Tachbrook, Warwickshire on Friday 26th February at 11.30am. Flowers or donations to the Alzheimers Disease Society please c/o A. J. Adkinson & Son Funeral Directors, 12 London Road, Oadby, Leicestershire LE2 5DG. Tel 0116 271 2340.

LAKE - On February 18th 1999 at Tregolls Manor (Residential Home) Ian H C. Dear father of Janice, Susan and Caroline. Funeral service at Penmount Crematorium, Truro, Cornwall on Thursday 25th of February 2.40 pm. Donations, if desired, for RNLI c/o Terence Tregunna Funeral Director, 49 Kenwyn Street, Truro TR1 3DB.

LAMB - Pansy, lately of Rome, peacefully with her family in London, on February 19th 1999 aged 94. Funeral mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kensington Church Street at 10.45 am on Friday February 26th.

LEACH - Edmund Arthur. On 18th February, peacefully at home, just five weeks before his 90th Birthday. Beloved husband of the late Dos, father of Vicky and much loved uncle and friend of many. Funeral at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham on Thursday 25th February at 1 pm. Further enquiries and flowers to Thos. Furber & Co. Ltd., Funeral Directors, 0121-427 2233 or donations to your favourite charity.

RIGBY - Suddenly on February 18th aged 79 years. Reginald Francis of Woore, Shropshire. Beloved husband of Joan, dear father of Robin and the late Rupert and father-in-law of Edda. For funeral arrangements please call J.R. Williams F/D 01630 654490.

THOMSON - Yvonne peacefully at home in her 74th year on 16th February 1999. Devoted wife of Drew, mother of Madelaine, Caroline, Ian and Alison, mother-in-law of John, Jane and Charles and adored grannie of her 9 grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Edward's Church, Corfe Castle at 12 noon Thursday 25th February. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The Cancer Research Campaign c/o James Smith Funeral Directors, 60A Kings Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1HR.

TINDALL - Mary Malise (née Robertson) died peacefully at home on February 19. Loved wife of Simon, mother of Jane, Mark and Lulu and grandmother. Family funeral, and family flowers only. Memorial service to be arranged. Any donations, please, to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, SW4.

TYSON-WOODCOCK - Frances Isobel (neé Becher), died peacefully on 19th February, aged 85. Mother of Anthony and Julian. Funeral at St Mary The Virgin, Hambleden, Bucks, on Friday 26th February at 12.30 pm. Flowers maybe sent to Sawyer Funeral Services 32 West Street, Marlow, Bucks.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

A SERVICE of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Russell Fairgrieve, CBE, TD, JP, will be held at 12 noon on Friday 26th February 1999 at Old Parish and St Pauls Church, Scott Crescent, Galashiels. All friends welcome.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BLYTH - Margaret Rose (née Edwardes Jones), former Headmistress of Tudor Hall School, on Saturday May 1st, 2.30 pm, St Mary the Virgin, Bloxham, Oxon and afterwards at Tudor Hall School.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

COPESTAKE - Joe. Remembered with love by family and friends.

BIRTHDAYS

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



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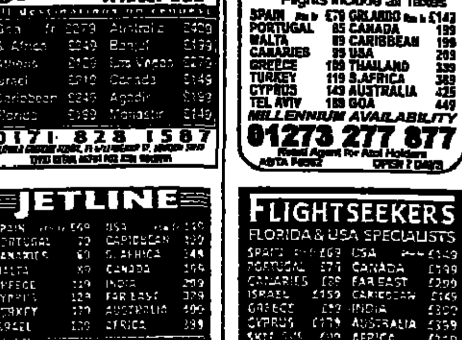
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION is sought regarding the recent issue of visas at the British Consulate St. Petersburg Russia. Further information from 01229 463090 (eves). Fax 01772 731750 or http:// www.demozley.dircon.co.uk/visa

PUBLIC NOTICES

BENSON AT YOUR SERVICE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Shay Bannon of Levy Gee, P.O. Box 2653, 66 Wigmore Street, London, W1A 3RT, give notice that on 28 January 1999 I was appointed Liquidator of Benson At Your Service Limited by resolutions of members. At a subsequent meeting of creditors held on 12 February that appointment was ratified by a resolution of creditors.
Dated: 11 February 1999
Shay Bannon
Liquidator

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
ASAT (UK) LIMITED
Registered number: 2727430 Nature of business: Assembly and testing of semiconductors. Trade classification: 11. Administration Order made: 12 February 1999. Derek Anthony Howell and Joseph Patrick Considine Joint Administrators. (office holder nos 6604 and 1768)





OBITUARIES

SIR RUSSELL FAIRGRIEVE

Sir Russell Fairgrieve, CBE, MP for Aberdeenshire, West, 1974-83, and chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, 1975-80, died on February 17 aged 74. He was born on May 3, 1924.

A staunch Europhile and a convinced devolutionist, Sir Russell Fairgrieve was a Scottish Tory of the kind that went out of fashion after Mrs Thatcher forced the party north of the border into line with her philosophies and into oblivion. At his death the Scottish parliament, which he long regarded as inevitable and desirable, is an imminent reality.

Thomas Russell Fairgrieve was born into a Borders family that had been active in the textile trade for more than a hundred years. He was educated at St Mary's School, Melrose, and Sedbergh. During and after the war he served as a major in the 8th Gurkha Rifles (Indian Army), commanding a company in Burma, Malaya and Java from 1944 to 1946.

On his return home he attended the Scottish Wool Technical College at Galashiels. After gaining extensive experience, in Scotland and the US, he became managing director of Laidlaw & Fairgrieve. As the Borders industry consolidated, he became a director of Joseph Dawson (Holdings) from 1961 to 1972 and of William Baird & Co from 1975. Latterly he chaired Quality Guaranteed and Bain Hogg Scotland, and served on the boards of numerous other companies.

He entered local politics in 1949 as a town councillor in Galashiels and a county councillor in Selkirk, serving until 1959.

In 1950 he chaired the Scottish Young Conservatives and in 1965 was president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, the body that represented the party's voluntary wing. He was one of the "Young Turks" (along with Michael Ancram and Malcolm Rifkind) who formed the Thistle Group and were keen to modernise the party, which had secured a majority of the Scottish votes in 1955 but, as hindsight now confirms, was at the beginning of a decline which ultimately left it without any seats in Scotland.



Fairgrieve: his brand of Conservatism went out of fashion in Scotland

He entered Parliament at the February general election of 1974 (in which year he was also appointed CBE) as MP for Aberdeenshire West, ironically because the surge in SNP support deprived the Liberals of the seat. By this time Edward Heath had committed the party to a Scottish assembly, a policy which increasingly divided it. Margaret Thatcher tactically retreated from it, but did not formally abandon it until she formed her first administration after the inconclusive outcome of the 1979 devolution referendum and the subsequent general election.

In 1975 she appointed Fairgrieve chairman of the party in Scotland because as a middle-class Scot he did not carry the whiff of the grouse moor then thought to be responsible for the party's decline. Indeed, he proclaimed at a press conference that he did not hunt or shoot.

When Mrs Thatcher came to power she appointed him under-secretary at the Scottish Office, with responsibility for health. But in 1981 he was one of the less noticed victims of the reshuffle which removed a number of "Wets", including Sir Ian Gilmour, from the Cabinet. When a Boundaries Commission review swept his seat away, Fairgrieve decided to return to business and did not contest the 1983 election. Thereafter he was an influential if dissident figure on the sidelines.

After the 1987 election, which saw the number of Tory seats in Scotland fall from 21 to ten, Mrs Thatcher became convinced that the old-guard leadership was responsible for the failure. In 1989, against the wishes of Malcolm Rifkind, then Scottish Secretary, she installed Michael Forsyth as chairman in Scotland. His vigorous reforms alienated traditional elements in the party, and Fairgrieve was associated with the group led by Arthur Bell and his wife Susan which, with the support of William Whitelaw and George Younger, eventually forced Mrs Thatcher, much to her chagrin, to remove Forsyth from the chairmanship.

By now the tide was running strongly both against Fairgrieve's brand of conservatism — he described himself as financially to the right and socially to the left of centre — and his commitment to Europe. Despite growing Tory opposition he campaigned for the European Movement, chairing its Scottish Council.

In an article in 1992 he set out his views that the constitution must change if the UK were not to break up. He said democracy must work at the civic, Scottish, Westminster and European levels. Of Westminster he wrote: "I cannot think of any other industry, institution or activity that has gone unchanged for so long."

A tall, courteous and affable figure, he bore bravely the terminal illness — multisystem atrophy — which blighted the last months of his life and for which he was being treated when he died in Berne. He remained true to the party, despite his reservations, and rumours last year that, like the Bells, he was defecting to the Liberal Democrats were dismissed as "ludicrous".

Fairgrieve was appointed CBE in 1974 and knighted in 1981. He had resumed soldiering with the Territorial Army in the 1950s, and served as a major in the King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1956-72.

Russell Fairgrieve is survived by his wife Millie, whom he married in 1954, and by a son and three daughters.

FATHER WALTER LINI

Father Walter Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, 1980-91, died yesterday aged 56. He was born in 1942.

GENERALLY acknowledged as the founding father of the Pacific archipelago state of Vanuatu, formerly the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides, Walter Lini, an Anglican priest and its first prime minister after independence, nevertheless had his share of headaches at his country's birth. Like many of the South Pacific's island chains which graduated to statehood, Vanuatu badly lacked geographical and ethnic cohesion.

More than seventy volcanic islands covered in jungle and occupied by different races speaking a number of Melanesian languages as well as English and French, the state was always going to be vulnerable to outside interference and exploitation. A notoriously lax joint Anglo-French administration of the islands from 1906 to 1980, had not helped. At the time of its independence more than 36 per cent of the land was owned by foreigners, anxious to exploit its resources of copra, coffee and cocoa.

In June 1980, on the eve of independence, Lini, whose Vanuaaku Party had won a majority of seats in elections to the islands' Representative Assembly the previous year, was faced with a threat of secession from one of the islands. On Espiritu Santo, the largest of the group, the francophile Jimmy Stevens, colourful leader of the opposition Na-Griamel Party, declared independence from Vanuatu and enlisted the support of French settlers and American business interests, all of whom felt safer under a merely nominal colonial administration which would not interfere with their operations.

Armed with bows, arrows, blowpipes and slings, Stevens's supporters surged out of the jungle and took over a number of coastal communities, imprisoning government officials and police.

When, in response to a plea to both Britain and France by Lini, Britain sent 200 Royal Marines as a peacekeeping force, France, instinctively siding with its own settlers on Espiritu Santo, objected to what it described as unilateral action. In the event, after some equivocating by the French authorities, to whom their numerous settlers naturally looked to protect their interests, the New Hebrides became independent to timetable as Vanuatu on July 30, 1980, although this still left Lini with his problem on Espiritu Santo.



Lini: led the archipelago of Vanuatu to independence in 1980

The new Prime Minister immediately concluded a defence pact with Papua New Guinea under which its troops were to replace British and French units on the islands. Landing on Espiritu Santo in August, these soon rounded up Stevens and his Na-Griamel rebels and the island was brought back into the fold. Lini thus negotiated the first and most serious threat to the integrity of the new state.

Although he styled himself Father, Walter Lini was an Anglican priest. He was born on Pentecost Island, one of the New Hebrides group, and had his early education in the Solomon islands. In 1966 he went to New Zealand to study for the ministry at St John's College, Auckland. He was ordained deacon in 1969 and priest in 1970, serving first in the diocese of Melanesia and, from 1975, in the Diocese of New Hebrides.

In the decade of the Seventies local political initatives in the New Hebrides became more vigorous. Na-Griamel, one of the first political groups to assert itself, petitioned the United Nations to try to prevent land being sold off to (mainly American) land developers for holiday resorts. Na-Griamel had its roots in ancient Melanesian customs and forest cult activities. Lini joined the more Western-looking New Hebrides National Party, which was sponsored by Anglican Church Missions and generally received the support of the British Government. Francophone Catholics, too, had their version of a nationalist party.

The New Hebrides National Party — soon to become the Vanuaaku Party (VP) — eventually emerged as the most influential of the islands' political groupings and made most of the running in the settling of terms for eventual independence. In the late 1970s the VP, of which Lini was President, reached agreement with Britain and France on elections to a Representative Assembly based on universal suffrage. A measure of self government was introduced in 1978 and Lini became, first, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Social Services, and then Chief Minister and Minister of Justice in the run-up to independence. In the elections for the first post-independence assembly in 1979 the VP won 26 of the 39 seats and the assembly voted Lini the country's first Prime Minister.

Even after the suppression of the Stevens revolt, Lini had to face further challenges to his authority. In 1987 the VP's secretary-general, Barak Sope, unsuccessfully challenged him for the party presidency and in the following year Sope broke away to form a new party. But this and another opposition party, the Union of Moderate Parties, boycotted their parliamentary seats and this tended to erode the authority of the assembly and of Lini.

There was a further crisis when President Sokomanu dissolved Parliament and announced an interim government with Sope as Prime Minister. But other South Pacific governments, including Australia and New Zealand, refused to recognise it.

Sokomanu and Sope were next tried and jailed for conspiracy and mutiny. But although the trials were presided over by a judge from the Solomons to ensure impartiality, fatal damage had been done to Lini's standing. In August 1991, his party passed a motion of no confidence in him and he was replaced as prime minister and party leader. He was not to play a major role in Vanuatu's affairs again. He had suffered a stroke while in office and had latterly been in poor health.

Walter Lini married, in 1970, Mary Ketu. They had four sons and two daughters.

FERDINAND RODRIGUEZ-REDINGTON

Ferdinand Rodriguez-Redington, DCM, wartime secret agent, died in Paris on January 22 aged 83. He was born in England on May 31, 1915.

SPANISH and English by birth, English and French by citizenship, Ferdinand Rodriguez-Redington served British Intelligence and the French Resistance during the Second World War. Flown into occupied France in 1942, he was in that most perilous branch of Resistance operations, wireless communication. Like so many wireless operators (always at risk of arrest from enemy interception of their transmissions) he was eventually run down by the Gestapo. But he survived the brutal rigours of imprisonment in Germany and, having married "Ermine", a fellow secret agent, he lived on to raise a family and make a career in postwar French tourism and aviation.

Ferdinand Edward Rodriguez-Redington was born, at the insistence of his English mother, whose name was Redington, at Bladon, Oxfordshire. He was brought up in France where he trained as an accountant, acquiring dual British-French citizenship. He had, as a matter of course, done his military service and in April 1940, on the eve of the German Blitzkrieg, he rejoined his regiment at Rennes, in Brittany. After the surrender of France he made his way across the Channel to England, where he joined the British Army.

In 1941 he was posted to Egypt where he was employed on standard field intelligence. But his fluent command of French made it clear that he would be best employed in operations in support of the Resistance in France. Hence, he was selected for radio operator training and in October 1942 was landed by Lysander aircraft at Ussel, on the western edge of the Massif Central.



Rodriguez-Redington with his wife, the agent "Ermine", in 1945

There he joined the "Alliance" network, organised by Marie Madeleine Foucade, and became a wireless operator with the codename "Magpie". He arrived at a difficult moment since his predecessor in the job had just been unmasked as a traitor, and Resistance suspicion of "visitors" from England, always strong, was at that stage at a particularly paranoid level.

But Magpie proved himself not only as a wireless operator, but in his tireless journeys throughout France, distributing transmitters and spare parts, and taking much needed cash to Resistance cells. Marie Madeleine Foucade always described him as "the brilliant British wireless operator and the best we had".

But on his second mission to France, in September 1943, he was betrayed and captured. He was interrogated and tortured repeatedly by the Gestapo, but revealed nothing. He was condemned to death but this sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Incarcerated in Germany, first at Schwäbisch Hall, near Heilbronn, and then at Freiburg, he was kept for the best part of a year in chains underground and in total darkness.

But in January 1945 he was unexpectedly taken to Switzerland and exchanged for a captured German officer. He returned to the now liberated France and in June 1945 married Hermine Bontinck ("Ermine") whom he had met in 1942 when she was personal assistant to Madeleine Fourcade.

He received the Croix de Guerre avec Palmes and the Médaille de la Résistance from the French Government, who also appointed him an Officer of the Legion of Honour. His Distinguished Conduct Medal from Britain was pinned on by King George VI at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, a detail of which this strong Anglophile was very proud.

After the war he worked in civil aviation and tourism in France and West Africa, both for Air Afrique and for Transports Aériens Intercontinentaux. He was active in resistance associations, including the Alliance Association, of which he succeeded Foucade as president. His memoir of his secret wartime activities, *L'Escalier sans Retour*, was published in 1984.

He is survived by his wife Hermine and by two sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR BRIAN O'CONNOR

Professor Brian O'Connor, orthopaedic surgeon, died on January 21 aged 69. He was born on September 27, 1929.

BRIAN O'CONNOR was small in stature but had style and bounce. Having been a champion gymnast at school, he would occasionally astonish his colleagues with spontaneous acrobatic displays. He was a maverick — dressing with eccentric flair — and a natural leader. By cutting red tape he secured the future of the Oswestry Orthopaedic and District Hospital, and as a teacher he created the Institute of Orthopaedics and made it available to all disciplines.

Brian Thomas O'Connor was born and educated in Brisbane. But at 15, in 1944, afraid that the war would end without him, he abandoned his studies to work on board a Swedish merchant ship. He graduated from the University of Queensland in 1952. Before he arrived in Britain in 1957 his training had taken him to the Aboriginal communities of Australia's tropical north and further afield to America and Sweden, where he began to specialise in orthopaedics.

After working at the Stanmore and Mount Vernon Hospitals — and meanwhile working as a professional acrobat — he obtained his certificate as Master of Orthopaedic Surgery from Liverpool University in 1959, and then became senior registrar to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. It was here, with Professor Robert Duthie, that he developed a new system for hospital admissions, which enabled patients being seen in outpatient clinics to be given dates for surgery. The health service is currently trying to adopt a similar approach nationwide.

From 1962 to 1964 he was seconded to the Sudan, where he established an orthopaedic service and a training programme. In later years he continued to work with centres in developing countries, notably for the World Health Organisation in India, Burma and Indonesia.

In 1968 he was appointed director of clinical studies at the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire, which specialises in bone and joint services. His first task was to establish the Institute of Orthopaedics as a model for the coordination of postgraduate education, research and patient care. He and a fellow Australian, Jack O'Brien, established the first centre for the study of spinal disorders in the country, and in 1978 O'Connor's work was acknowledged by his appointment as the first Robert Jones Professor of Orthopaedics at Liverpool University.

Part of O'Connor's legacy to Oswestry is the open-plan operating theatre complex which he conceived and saw through to completion in 1991. The first of their kind in Britain, with ultra-clean air, and 400 exchanges of air per hour, these theatres represent a major advance in the struggle against infection. When O'Connor retired in 1994, colleagues gathered from around the world, and he was presented with an Australian naval sword in recognition of his combative spirit. He died at the hospital he loved after a long illness.

He leaves his widow Lynette Hunter, and their two sons and two daughters.

Latest wills

Sir Frank **Whittle**, inventor of the jet engine, of Columbia, Maryland, USA, left estate valued at £134,022 net.

Sir John **Wills**, Bt, Lord-Lieutenant of Avon since 1974, President, Bristol and West Building Society since 1993, of Langford, Bristol, left estate valued at £4,895,711 net.

Lady **Hendy**, of Gifford, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £252,514 net.

The Dowager Lady **Craufurd**, of Tring, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £768,413 net.

Henry Edgar **Traylen**, of Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £10,417,440 net.
He left £10,000 each to PCC of Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, PCC of All Saints, Rotherfield Peppard, Oxfordshire, Grand Charity for the Relief Chest of the Argonauts Lodge, New Masonic Samaritan Fund, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, MS Society, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Royal Star and Garter Home and RNLI; £2,000 to the Walton and Frinton Yacht Club; £1,000 to the general fund of the Argonauts Lodge.

Lady **Kearns**, of Blackheath, London, left estate valued at £212,051 net.
She left £5,000 to St Paul's Church, Deptford, London.

Countess Aniela Maria **Raczynska**, of London W5, left estate valued at £939,998 net.
She left $10,000 to both the Polish Museum and Sikorski Institute, London and the Committee for the Blind of Poland of New York.

Lady Helen **Smith**, of Souldern, Bicester, Oxfordshire left estate valued at £3,093,611 net.

Daphne Pauline Joan **Brighten**, company director, of Hartlepool, Cleveland, left estate valued at £1,261,577 net.

John I'Anson **Dee**, of Croxton, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,104,209 net.
He left £1,000 to the parish church of Croxton.

Gordon George **De Vine**, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, left estate valued at £1,500,459 net.
He left £100,000 to set up a trust fund to be invested in charitable organisations; £6,000 to Westcliff-on-Sea Rotary Club; £500 each to St John's and Elizabeth Hospital, St John's Wood, PDSA, Save the Children Fund, Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Hospice of St Joseph's Hackney; £250 to the British Sailors Society, Westcliff-on-Sea branch.

Jean **Hamilton**, of Oxted, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,205,241 net.
She left £500 to St Peter PCC, Tadridge, Diocese of Southwark, £300 to the Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare.

Sheila Elizabeth **Hart**, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, left estate valued at £1,037,211 net.

Margaret Edith **Ivens**, of Blakesley, Towcester, left estate valued at £1,151,287 net.
She left shares in her estate to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the RNLI and Northampton General Hospital Charitable Funds.

Lawrence Alexander **Lafone**, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,677,343 net.

Audrey Mary **Parkhouse**, of Northampton, left estate valued at £1,588,830 net.

Rosemary **Stevens**, of Yeovil, Somerset, left estate valued at £2,774,531 net.
She left £7,500 each to Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, Sunshine Fund for Blind Children and Young People and the RSPB.

John Rowland Edison **Thomas**, of Hellidon, Daventry, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £2,432,509 net.

Adeline Constance **Tristram**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,029,254 net.
She left £10,000 to both the RNLI and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Frederick Leslie **Turley**, of Penn, Wolverhampton, left estate valued at £1,113,148 net.

Edward William **Wallaker**, company director, of Surbiton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,482,982 net.

Frank **Webster**, of Darlington, Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,118,047 net.

ON THIS DAY

February 22, 1911

The writer raises a concern which has returned in recent years with the coming of skateboards and rollerblades.

ROLLER SKATING IN STREETS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,-When I questioned the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on the subject of his refusal to sanction a by-law prohibiting roller skating on the footpaths in Stoke Newington, he repelled the suggestion that the dangers were "much greater than the ordinary dangers of traffic in the streets". He appeared to be under the impression that the only ground of objection appeared to be the risks to life. He spoke rather lightly of the death of an old woman of 91 who was knocked down by two boys at Clapham-cross on January 5, and whose death, according to the medical evidence at the coroner's inquest, was due to exhaustion following shock from the fall, and stated, amid the laughter of his followers, that she was suffering from senile decay, and was in the habit of imagining things that never happened — a failing, I may remark, shared by some politicians.

When asked by Lord Castlereagh whether he was going to wait until a number of elderly people had been killed, he expressly repudiated the principle "that the lives of no persons are to be endangered by pastimes."

Since public attention was drawn to the question I have received a number of letters telling of annoyance and injury, and complaining bitterly of the attitude of the Home Secretary..

An elderly lady, mother of an East-end clergyman, writes:- "On Tuesday last I received a severe blow on the back of the head from a boy about 14 years of age, going at a great rate on roller skates, with both arms extended and clenched fists. To balance himself, I suppose, in passing me from behind, he gave me the blow I mentioned." . . .

I have no desire to see boys and girls deprived of any legitimate recreation. I have done a good deal to encourage athletic pursuits among young people in London. There are times and places where roller skating might be permitted, quite properly, but its unregulated practice has grown into a grave abuse, and has made the streets in many quarters positively unsafe, especially for the less agile portion of the community, and is causing annoyance to all . . .

I do not know whether Mr Churchill has made any estimate of the number of deaths and accidents necessary to justify his intervention. But he may rest assured that, if he takes no action, he will soon be the most unpopular man in London . . .

Your obedient servant,
GEORGE A. TOUCHE,
Carlton Club, Feb. 20.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Straw caves in on Lawrence gag

■ The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, was forced into a humiliating backdown yesterday over attempts to gag the media on leaked details of the report into the Stephen Lawrence case. Less than 24 hours after the Government obtained an injunction to halt the presses at *The Sunday Telegraph*, Mr Straw agreed that the story could be reprinted. His legal advisers admitted that the injunction was unworkable................ Pages 1-3

Six arrested over Omagh bombing

Police investigating the Omagh bomb arrested at least six people in dawn raids north and south of the border. Four men were arrested in the Dundalk area of County Louth which is the base of the so-called Real IRA, the republican splinter group that claimed responsibility for the bomb. A fifth man was arrested later.......... Page 1

Hague celebrates

William Hague's aunt kept her promise when she held a party for him, his wife Ffion and 174 other guests to celebrate her National Lottery win.................. Page 1

2000 bug squashed

The man who solved the riddle of Rubik's cube and wrote a best-seller about it when he was 12 has cracked a second major puzzle — spotting where the Millennium Bug will strike................ Page 5

Michael likely to quit

Alun Michael, Welsh Secretary and likely to be the first secretary of the Welsh assembly, indicated that he would step down as an MP at the next election..... Page 5

Visa centre in chaos

The Immigration and Nationality directorate in Croydon, which deals with immigration and asylum-seeking, has descended into chaos, a report claims...... Page 6

Woes for Archer's son

James Archer, the high-flying son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, has been suspended from his job as a share dealer and faces questioning from the City watchdog over allegations of financial irregularities..................... Page 7

GM backflip

A leading supporter of Arpad Pusztai, the scientist who claimed that genetically modified potatoes were dangerous, has changed his mind................................ Page 7

Artists win on EU tax

A tax ensuring that royalties are paid to artists, or their estate, for up to 70 years after death will be approved by the European Commission this week.......... Pages 8, 9

Small schools excel

Schools too small to be included in league tables of primary test results are outperforming their larger counterparts, according to a government analysis...... Page 10

Holiday rape inquiry

Two 15-year-old British schoolgirls who were allegedly raped during a school ski holiday in America were being comforted by their parents.................. Page 11

Respecting the Rock

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has sought to defuse tension over Gibraltar, but told Spain that Britain would let nothing override the "democratically expressed wishes of the Gibraltar people"........................ Page 12

Fresh Mugabe tirade

President Mugabe delivered an unbridled attack on the country's whites, the judiciary, the press and Western embassies in a disturbing TV interview...... Page 13

Kosovo talks drag on

The Rambouillet peace conference dragged into extra time, with the Serb leader insisting that there will be no Nato peacekeepers inside the province in the near future.................................. Page 14

Master's passion was art, not men

Claims that Michelangelo was homosexual are being challenged by a specialist in Renaissance art at Columbia University. James Beck believes that the master was simply more passionate about art and his family than sex and had little, if any, sexual experiences. "The contention that Michelangelo was a homosexual . . . is without solid historical support"....... Page 8

MICHAEL POWELL



Marjorie Longdin, 73, celebrates her £856,000 National Lottery win with nephew William Hague and his wife Ffion. Report, page 1

Telephone numbers: Telecom Italia received notice that Olivetti is to make a $60 billion takeover bid. British Telecom has emerged as a potential counterbidder..... Page 48

Chain pulled: There are bitter recriminations in the City over the failure of the planned flotation of William Hill, after its owner Nomura pulled the issue............ Page 48

Fashion issue: Donatella Versace said she was to resurrect the plans of her late brother Gianni to float the family fashion house which could value the business at £1 billion..................................... Page 48

The future: The chairman of Liffe, the London futures and options exchange, said plans for the flotation of the organisation will be clearer this week..................... Pages 46, 48

Sharp-tongued chick: Julie Burchill, now 40, is still endlessly fascinated by the most important person in the universe — herself. But what was all the fuss about?........ Page 15

Genetic woes: The furore over genetically modified food has left vegetarians as worried as the rest of us. Anjana Ahuja reports........ Page 15

Millennial woman: The best of New York fashion strides into 2000 with a sleek new line.......... Pages 16, 17

3, 9, 17, 23, 29, 40. Bonus: 44
Eleven winners shared Saturday's £6,035,601 National Lottery jackpot, each scooping £548,691.

Spotlight on Berlin: *The Thin Red Line* walked away with the supreme prize at this year's Berlin Film Festival, although the *The War Zone* from Britian proved that not all the best films were in competition............................... Page 18

US import: While Britain sends the best of its new drama to New York, London's Donmar theatre is showcasing young dramatists from the United States..................... Page 18

High notes: David Freeman's arena staging of Puccini's *Tosca* is fabulous on all counts, making it a riveting evening of opera at the Albert Hall.................................. Page 19

Digital art: Computer art is no longer a contradiction in terms, as several London galleries have begun to prove.................................. Page 19

Football: Aston Villa's lurch into FA Carling Premiership oblivion continued unabated when they were held to a goalless draw by Wimbledon.................. Pages 25, 29

Tennis: British No 1 Tim Henman again failed to master Yevgeny Kafelnikov indoors............ Page 27

Rugby union: England scrambled to success over Scotland in their opening Five Nations Championship game...................... Page 35

Cricket: Calcutta may lose its Test match venue status after more rioting marred the final day as India lost to Pakistan..................... Page 26

Golf: Alison Nicholas, in Hawaii, and Paul Lawrie, in Qatar, provided Britain with encouraging title successes................................ Page 36

Boxing: Jane Couch retained her welterweight titles before a crowd of 1,200.............................. Page 27

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **TOP FORM**
The best and worst primary schools of England in the annual league tables

■ **FOCUS**
The Children's Society: keeping young people in school and out of jail

Turkey's sharp warning to Israel not to make any contact with Kurdish PKK officials, or it would suffer the result of "political expediency", can only be called brazen and arrogant. Israel's sovereign right to set its foreign policy relations and decide who it will or will not talk to is nobody's business but Israel's. Friends may be friends, but the enemies of our friends are not necessarily our enemies. The Government must make it clear that Israel needs no warnings from Ankara or anywhere else.

The Jerusalem Post

Preview: Bolivia is the first destination in a new series of *Rough Guide to the World* (BBC2, 7.30pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart analyses a new documentary series looking at the loyalist movement in Northern Ireland........................ Pages 46, 47

Spun out

It would be deeply unfortunate if Mr Straw's inept attempt to gag reports of an inquiry into Stephen Lawrence's death backfired and made reform more difficult. Last week he was lecturing the public not to "walk on by". This weekend he should have had the good sense to turn the other cheek....... Page 21

Ranting and raving

External attempts to arrest Zimbabwe's descent into economic chaos have frequently been blocked by Mr Mugabe's intemperate tongue. No one is listening............ Page 21

Modern standards

Youth culture is built on shifting foundations of taste and fashion. If such old institutions as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are to cater for it, they must make every effort to stay young........................... Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The Welsh leadership decision echoes in Scotland and re-echoes in London. It has damaged confidence in the process of devolution, and will inevitably strengthen the cause of nationalism.......... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

The real question for Mr Blair is similar to the one that Margaret Thatcher faced throughout the 1980s — finding and promoting able allies............................ Page 20

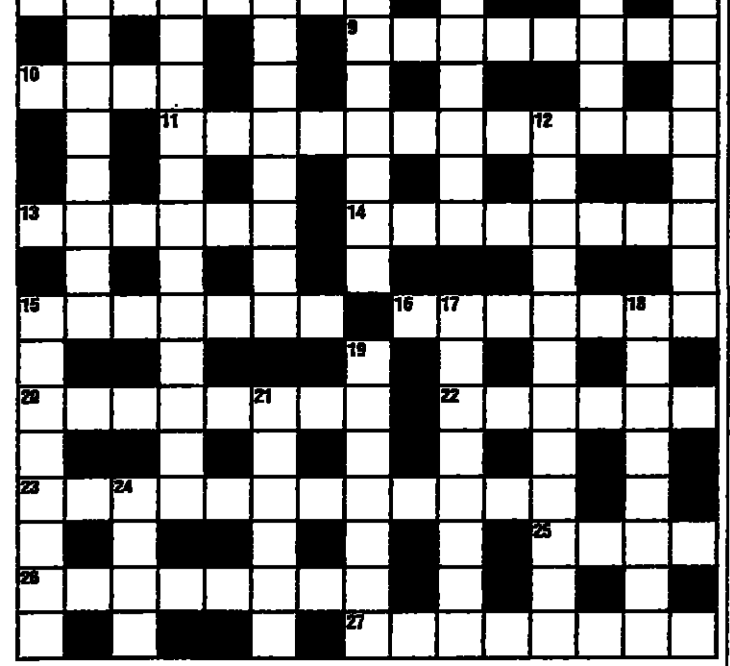
ANNA BLUNDY

Unfortunately, being unwell in Russia means being subjected to the various available cures, most of which involve honey and vodka in huge quantities..................... Page 20

Sir Russell Fairgreave, CBE, MP for Aberdeenshire; **Father Walter Lini**, Prime Minister of Vanuatu; **Fernandez Rodriguez-Redington**, DCM, wartime secret agent; **Professor Brian O'Connor**, orthopaedic surgeon.............................. Page 23

Detention without crime; Simon Jenkins's views on foreign affairs; Lords reform; Kurds; farewell to duty-free goods...................... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,033



ACROSS
1 Gather round and study site of old battle (8).
9 Woman finding murdered man wrapped in tattered sail (8).
10 Piece associated with Martin Luther (4).
11 Confused talk linking astronomer with unrealistic enterprise (6-6).
13 Sportsman who aims to get the gold (6).
14 North American girl entering the Promised Land (8).
15 Functioned outside own base (7).
16 Authorise retreating soldiers to hold prisoner (7).
20 Son distributed a lot, but it isn't the final figure (8).
22 Look back into empty cemetery can be scary (6).
23 Bloomer made by factory that supplies sleepers (7,5).
25 The smallest amount returned to you in Paris (4).
26 Rodent's sleeping-place by river (8).
27 Missile study originally tackled in part of garden (8).

DOWN
2 Everything I wanted in a French poem (8).
3 Cheerful man with skill settled down outside (5-7).
4 Fork out change for bus rides (8).
5 A small amount provided to support writer's 7 (7).
6 What's needed to make one diamond in duplicate? (6).
7 In which one is expecting a driver, perhaps (4).
8 As host, sailor receives sci-fi writer (8).
12 Await opportunity, seeing doctor consuming fish and porridge (4,4,4).
15 Nosy parker in detective group (8).
17 Skilled worker came in free to accommodate church (8).
18 Former songwriter, one involved in international trade (8).
19 Quick mover employed in shock treatment? (7).
21 It's needed by shoemakers, in a manner of speaking (6).
24 State of ignorance of many on the box (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,032 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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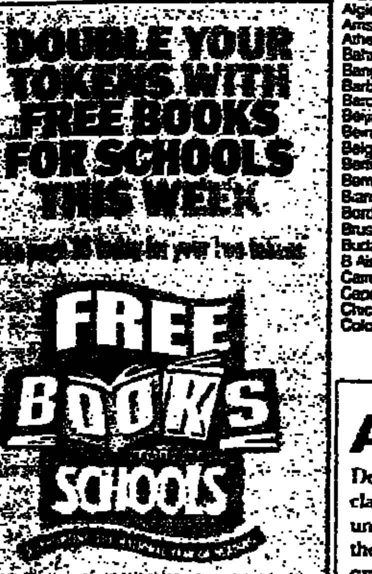
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Sun sets: 5.27 pm
Moon sets: 12.05 pm
Moon rises: 10.15 am
First quarter: tomorrow
London 5.27 pm to 6.59 am
Bristol 5.37 pm to 7.09 am
Edinburgh 5.31 pm to 7.12 am
Manchester 5.32 pm to 7.12 am
Penzance 5.52 pm to 7.19 am



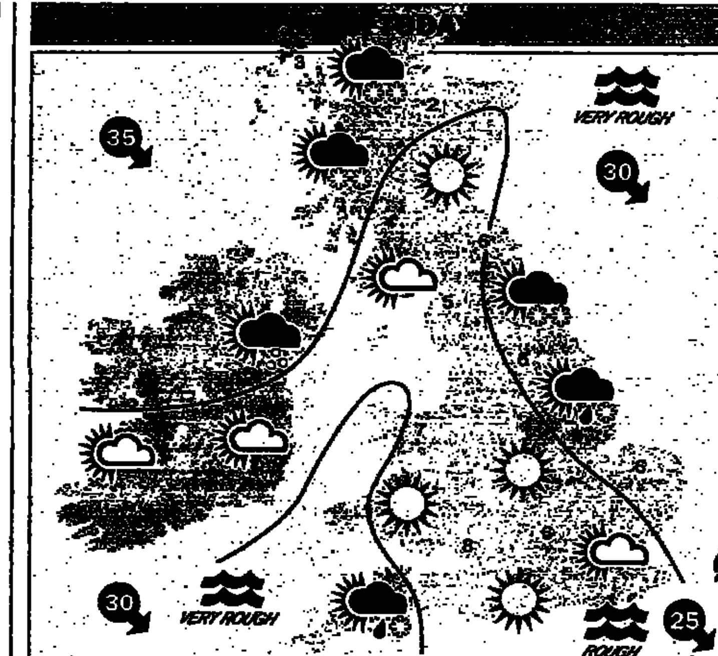
☐ **General:** sunny spells, showers and biting winds, reaching gale force in Scotland. Snow showers in Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern England and the Welsh mountains. Parts of central and southern England may see a little snow by evening. Frost widespread tonight.
☐ **London, SE & Central S England:** sunny spells and showers. Wind NW, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **E Anglia, E England:** sunny spells and showers. Wind NW, strong. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Midlands:** sunny spells and showers, some wintry over the hills by evening. Wind NW, fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).
☐ **Channel Islands, SW England:** sunny spells and showers. Wind NW, strong to near gale. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **Wales, NW, NE & Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** sun and showers, snow later on hills. Wind NW, strong to near gale. Max 8C (46F).
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW, NE & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** sun and snow showers. Blizzards on the hills. Wind NW, strong to gale. Max 4C (39F)
☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sun and showers, possibly snow on NW hills. Wind NW, strong to gale, moderate or fresh by evening. Max 9C (48F).
☐ **Outlook:** sunnier and less windy in most areas. Sleet and snow in the West.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

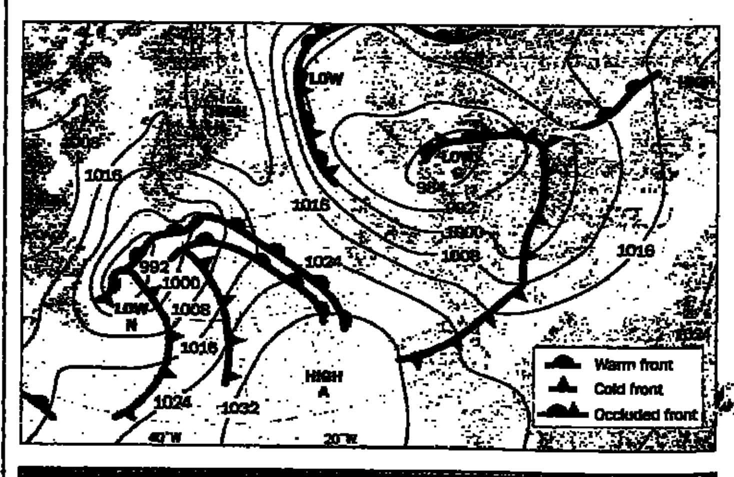
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.4	0.04	6	43	sn
Anglesey	4.2	0.19	9	48	h
Aspatria	3.7	0.15	7	45	sh
Aviemore	2.3	0.50	4	39	sn
Belfast	6.1	0.14	6	43	h
Birmingham	0.8	0.38	9	48	b
Bognor R	2.7	0.02	12	54	b
Bournemth	3.6	0.07	12	54	sh
Bristol	1.6	0.12	11	52	r
Buxton	0.3	0.49	6	43	sn
Cardiff	1.7	0.16	10	50	sh
Cleethorpes	5.8	0.07	10	50	sh
Colwyn Bay	0.9	0.26	8	46	h
Cromer	4.5	0.14	9	48	s
Edinburgh	5.9	0.18	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	2.5	0.55	5	41	sn
Exmouth	3.4	0.01	12	54	s
Fishguard	2.3	0.03	9	48	sh
Folkestone	3.2	0.13	11	52	r
Glasgow	2.9	0.41	6	43	h
Guernsey	0.5	0.01	13	55	c
Hastings	2.7	0.09	11	52	sh
Hayling I.	3.2	0.03	12	54	du
Hove	0.8	0.02	11	52	sh
Hunstanton	3.9	0.15	9	48	s
Isle of Man	4.3	0.09	9	48	sh
Isle of Wight	X	0.07	10	50	sh
Jersey	0.1	0.06	11	52	d
Kinloss	2.1	0.17	4	39	sn
Leeds	5.3	0.07	9	48	h
Lerwick	2.2	0.45	3	37	sn
Leuchars	6.9	0.17	6	43	sh
Littlehampton	2.6	0.07	12	54	sh
London	2.9	0.03	12	54	sh
Lowestoft	4.2	0.19	10	50	sh
Manchester	2.7	0.32	9	48	sl
Margate	2.0	0.14	11	52	sh
Morecambe	3.5	0.11	8	46	sl
Newcastle	4.6	0.19	8	46	sl
Newquay	0.8	0.02	10	50	r
Norwich	3.6	0.15	10	50	sh
Oxford	0.5	0.14	10	50	h
Penzance	1.0	0.01	12	54	b
Poole	3.2	0.03	13	55	s
Prestatyn	2.4	0.35	8	46	b
Ross on Wye	3.2	0.08	11	52	s
Saunton Sands	0.8	0.04	10	50	b
Scarborough	4.2	0.04	8	46	b
Shrewsbury	1.9	0.19	9	48	sh
Skegness	6.2	0.10	10	50	sh
Southend	2.5	0.03	11	52	sh
Southport	X	0.20	8	46	sh
Stornoway	1.6	0.37	3	37	h
Swanage	3.9	0.03	12	54	sh
Teignmouth	2.7	0.01	12	54	b
Tenby	4.3	0.02	11	52	s
Tiree	3.3	0.36	5	41	h
Torquay	1.7	0.01	12	54	b
Weymouth	2.8	0.07	11	52	sh

	C	F	
Ajaccio	15	59	s
Akrotiri	13	55	f
Alex'dria	13	55	c
Algiers	17	63	s
Amsrdm	9	48	r
Athens	9	48	s
Bahrain	25	77	f
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barbados	27	81	f
Barcelona	14	57	s
Beijing	6	43	s
Beirut	16	61	f
Belgrade	3	37	f
Berlin	1	34	d
Bermuda	22	72	s
Biarritz	11	52	r
Bordeaux	12	54	c
Brussels	10	50	d
Budapest	1	34	f
B Aires	32	90	s
Cairo	17	63	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s
Chicago	0	32	s
Cologne	8	45	r
C'phagn	1	34	r
Corfu	10	50	s
Dublin	8	46	f
Dubrovnik	8	46	f
Faro	18	64	s
Florence	12	54	s
Frankfurt	7	45	r
Funchal	17	63	c
Geneva	8	46	f
Gibraltar	19	66	s
Helsinki	-3	27	f
Hong K	15	59	c
Innsbruck	1	34	sn
Istanbul	0	32	sn
Jeddah	32	90	s
Jo'burg	24	75	s
L Palmas	19	66	f
Le Touqt	8	46	f
Lisbon	16	61	s
Locarno	7	45	s
L Angeles	15	59	s
Luxembg	7	45	r
Luxor	31	88	f
Madrid	13	55	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	17	63	s
Malta	15	59	s
Melbourne	16	61	c
Mexico C	19	66	s
Miami	28	82	s
Milan	10	50	c
Montreal	-2	28	s
Moscow	0	32	sn
Munich	4	39	c
Nairobi	25	77	f
Naples	14	57	s
N Delhi	25	77	s
N York	4	39	f
Nice	13	55	s
Oslo	-1	30	sn
Paris	10	50	r
Perth	28	82	s
Prague	2	36	r
Reykjavik	-6	21	sn
Rhodes	9	48	f
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	31	88	s
Rome	14	57	s
R'ndsway	9	48	f
Salzburg	1	34	r
S Frisco	10	50	s
Santiago	27	81	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	1	34	s
Singapore	30	86	f
Stockholm	1	34	f
Strasb'rg	8	46	r
Sydney	21	70	s
Tangier	16	61	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Tenerife	20	68	s
Tokyo	5	41	r
Toronto	-5	23	f
Tunis	14	57	r
Valencia	19	66	s
Vanc'ver	7	45	f
Venice	9	48	s
Vienna	0	32	sn
Warsaw	-1	30	f
Wash'ton	5	41	f
Zurich	5	41	f

Temperatures at midday local time. Friday X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: High A will see little change, low G will slowly fill as it drifts towards the Baltic states. Low N will move E and deepen



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5:33	3.9	17:48	4.1
Avonmouth	11:20	12.2	23:38	11.6
Belfast	3:04	3.2	15:28	3.4
Cardiff	11:08	11.3	23:24	10.8
Devonport	9:44	5.1	22:10	4.8
Dover	2:54	6.5	15:24	6.2
Dublin	3:44	3.8	16:08	4.0
Falmouth	9:15	4.9	21:41	4.6
Greenock	4:32	3.3	16:48	3.4
Harwich	3:42	4.0	16:15	3.7
Holyhead	2:16	5.1	14:42	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	10:26	8.1	22:44	8.3
Ilfracombe	10:11	8.5	22:31	8.1
King's Lynn	10:33	6.1	22:50	6.2
Leith	6:51	5.1	19:10	5.2
Liverpool	3:07	8.8	15:33	8.9
London Bridge	5:42	6.9	18:18	6.6
Lowestoft	1:06	2.5	13:54	2.2
Margate	3:44	4.7	16:27	4.4
Milford Haven	10:28	6.4	22:52	6.1
Newquay	9:25	6.5	21:50	6.1
Oban	9:54	3.6	21:57	3.3
Penzance	8:48	5.2	21:12	4.9
Portland	11:02	1.8	23:24	1.6
Portsmouth	3:29	4.5	15:47	4.4
Shoreham	3:16	6.1	15:28	5.8
Southampton	2:51	4.4	15:13	4.2
Swansea	10:33	11.5	23:00	11.1
Tees	8:02	9.5	20:17	9.6
Walton-On-Naze	3:34	4.1	16:09	3.9

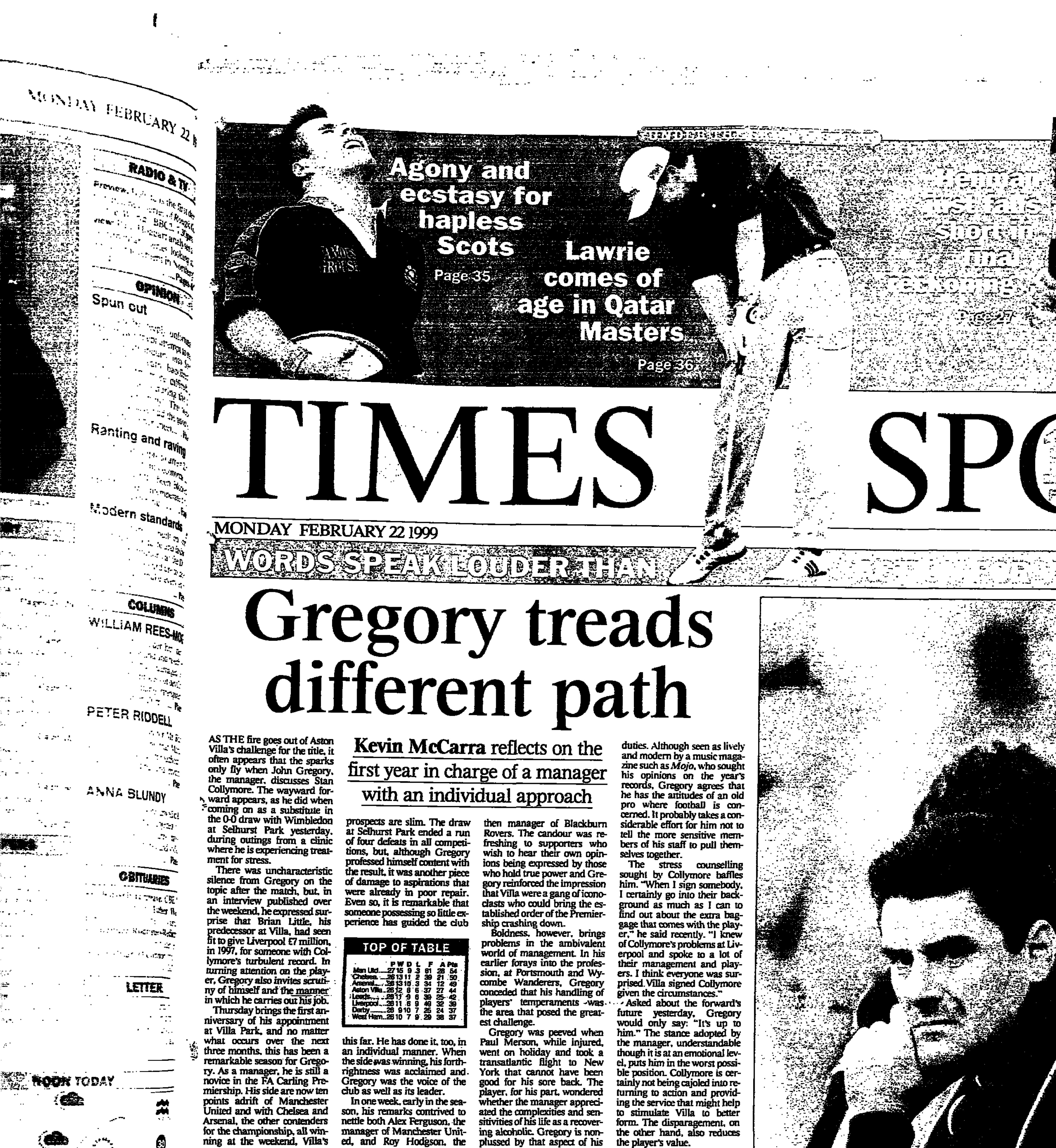
All times GMT. Heights in metres.



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TIMES SPORT

15 PAGES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1999

WORDS SPEAK LOUDER THAN

Gregory treads different path

Kevin McCarra reflects on the first year in charge of a manager with an individual approach

AS THE fire goes out of Aston Villa's challenge for the title, it often appears that the sparks only fly when John Gregory, the manager, discusses Stan Collymore. The wayward forward appears, as he did when coming on as a substitute in the 0-0 draw with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park yesterday, during outings from a clinic where he is experiencing treatment for stress.

There was uncharacteristic silence from Gregory on the topic after the match, but, in an interview published over the weekend, he expressed surprise that Brian Little, his predecessor at Villa, had seen fit to give Liverpool £7 million, in 1997, for someone with Collymore's turbulent record. In turning attention on the player, Gregory also invites scrutiny of himself and the manner in which he carries out his job.

Thursday brings the first anniversary of his appointment at Villa Park, and no matter what occurs over the next three months, this has been a remarkable season for Gregory. As a manager, he is still a novice in the FA Carling Premiership. His side are now ten points adrift of Manchester United and with Chelsea and Arsenal, the other contenders for the championship, all winning at the weekend, Villa's prospects are slim. The draw at Selhurst Park ended a run of four defeats in all competitions, but, although Gregory professed himself content with the result, it was another piece of damage to aspirations that were already in poor repair. Even so, it is remarkable that someone possessing so little experience has guided the club this far. He has done it, too, in an individual manner. When the side was winning, his forthrightness was acclaimed and Gregory was the voice of the club as well as its leader.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	27	15	9	3	61	28	54
Chelsea	26	13	11	2	39	21	50
Arsenal	26	13	10	3	34	12	49
Aston Villa	26	12	8	6	37	27	44
Leeds	26	11	9	6	39	25	42
Liverpool	26	11	6	9	46	32	39
Derby	26	9	10	7	25	24	37
West Ham	26	10	7	9	29	38	37

In one week, early in the season, his remarks contrived to nettle both Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, and Roy Hodgson, the then manager of Blackburn Rovers. The candour was refreshing to supporters who wish to hear their own opinions being expressed by those who hold true power and Gregory reinforced the impression that Villa were a gang of iconoclasts who could bring the established order of the Premiership crashing down.

Boldness, however, brings problems in the ambivalent world of management. In his earlier forays into the profession, at Portsmouth and Wycombe Wanderers, Gregory conceded that his handling of players' temperaments was the area that posed the greatest challenge.

Gregory was peeved when Paul Merson, while injured, went on holiday and took a transatlantic flight to New York that cannot have been good for his sore back. The player, for his part, wondered whether the manager appreciated the complexities and sensitivities of his life as a recovering alcoholic. Gregory is nonplussed by that aspect of his duties. Although seen as lively and modern by a music magazine such as *Mojo*, who sought his opinions on the year's records, Gregory agrees that he has the attitudes of an old pro where football is concerned. It probably takes a considerable effort for him not to tell the more sensitive members of his staff to pull themselves together.

The stress counselling sought by Collymore baffles him. "When I sign somebody, I certainly go into their background as much as I can to find out about the extra baggage that comes with the player," he said recently. "I knew of Collymore's problems at Liverpool and spoke to a lot of their management and players. I think everyone was surprised Villa signed Collymore given the circumstances."

Asked about the forward's future yesterday, Gregory would only say: "It's up to him." The stance adopted by the manager, understandable though it is at an emotional level, puts him in the worst possible position. Collymore is certainly not being cajoled into returning to action and providing the service that might help to stimulate Villa to better form. The disparagement, on the other hand, also reduces the player's value.

Gregory admits that Collymore is available for sale but denigration of the forward can only reduce the possibility of a deal. When David Sullivan, the owner of Birmingham City, considered taking him on loan Trevor Francis, the manager of the club, was aghast at the very idea. Although Gregory has been of overwhelming benefit to Villa, he may conclude, when calmness returns, that there are lessons to be drawn from the tumult of this season.

He continues, at least, to press on with his plans, but Villa's bid for Alan Stubbs, the Celtic defender, is likely to fall short of the valuation placed on him by the Glasgow club, who took him from Bolton Wanderers for £3.5 million in 1996.

Match report, page 29

GREGORY'S GRIPES

With Aston Villa struggling to stay with the leaders in the Premiership title chase, the pressure mounting on John Gregory, the manager, is evident with his latest criticism of Stan Collymore, the club's £7million striker, on the eve of yesterday's match against Wimbledon. Here is what he said:

STAN COLLYMORE

JOHN GREGORY

On Collymore's transfer:
"I was one of those who believed that Brian Little never put a foot wrong ... but it was a surprise to me when he signed Collymore. It was a shock given the problems Collymore had faced at Anfield and the problems he was having off the field. When I sign somebody, I certainly go into their background as much as I can, to find out about the extra baggage that comes with the player."

On Collymore's future:
"With him being out of the side, I think everyone is aware that Collymore is for sale."

On the supporters:
"I think the fans' views are similar to mine. If he is prepared to die for the club, they will support Stan. If not, they won't support him"

Collymore has scored seven league goals for Villa since signing from Liverpool for £7million in May 1997, which equates to £1million per goal

COLLYMORE'S GOALS

GOAL 1	Aug 27, 1997	v	Tottenham Hotspur (a)	L 2-3
GOAL 2	Dec 6, 1997	v	Coventry City (h)	W 3-0
GOALS 3 & 4	Dec 26, 1997	v	Tottenham Hotspur (h)	W 4-1
GOALS 5 & 6	Feb 28, 1998	v	Liverpool (h)	W 2-1
GOAL 7	Nov 7, 1998	v	Tottenham Hotspur (h)	W 3-2

The relationship between Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, and Collymore, top, pictured during the game with Wimbledon yesterday, has not helped the club in its faltering quest for the title. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Highbury rematch threatened by veto

ENGLISH football awaits a verdict from Zurich today concerning the FA Cup rematch in London tomorrow between Arsenal and Sheffield United — the game annulled by common consent of the two clubs and the Football Association and to the general approval of most followers of the game (Rob Hughes writes).

Remarkably Fifa, the world governing body, whose president Sepp Blatter called this "a wonderful gesture in the best spirit of the game" waited a week before announcing that it must decide whether its regulations allow the replaying of a match in which no law was broken, though the spirit of fair play was certainly abused. David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, said yesterday that private discussions he had had with Fifa led him to expect that the fifth-round tie, for which all 38,000 tickets have been sold, will go ahead. Some 6,000 United supporters are planning to travel.

However, twice in recent years attempts in Germany to replay games after what were considered refereeing errors have failed because of Fifa intervention. "There are a number of possible outcomes," Michael Zen-Ruffinen, the new Fifa general secretary said, "and one is that the replay will be cancelled."

CRICKET

Indian board to consider future of Eden Gardens

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

PAKISTAN returned home as conquering heroes yesterday while the cricket authorities in India began to assess the implications of the first game in the Asian Test Championship (ATC). The agenda stretches way beyond defeat by their fiercest rivals. After the disgraceful crowd scenes at Eden Gardens on Saturday, both the future of Calcutta as an international venue and plans for India to pay a reciprocal visit in 2001 are in serious doubt.

Despite the embarrassment it would cause Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), the largest ground in the world, with a capacity of 100,000, can expect to lose Test status for a punitive period after the third outbreak of violence in four years.

Play was held up for more than an hour last Friday after the dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar in unfortunate — though legitimate — circumstances, but imminent loss appeared to be the sole motivation a day later.

Suggestions that a Pakistan player had gestured provocatively towards the crowd were not supported by television evidence and denied by Shehryar Khan, the tour manager. India resumed on 214 for six chasing a target of 279, but lost three wickets inside the first five overs of the final day for the addition of 17 runs.

The dismissal of Kumble prompted a minority of the 50,000 spectators to throw water bottles, fruit and stones on to the outfield while others lit fires in the stands. More than three hours passed before play could finally resume.

After discussions with Bengal state politicians, the police decided to clear everyone bar VIP guests, journalists and officials from the stadium, making liberal use of the *lathi* sticks as they went about their work. Forty-seven people were arrested, five policemen taken to hospital and 19 spectators treated in the medical unit in the pavilion.

For seven minutes and ten balls — the time taken before Shoaib yorked Prasad — Test cricket was played in ignominy, behind closed doors. The sheer size of the stadium bowl highlighted the silence.

If the manner in which Pakistan sank to their knees and prayed towards Mecca at the finish recalled their victory in Madras three weeks earlier, then the similarities ended there. No lap of honour this time, no grace in defeat from the home support.

The ICC will decide upon its course of action after receiving the report from Cammie Smith, the match referee. Smith is prevented from commenting by his ICC brief. Anything other than suspension for the venue — even a heavy fine imposed on the Board of Control for Cricket in India — will surely represent a lenient precedent.

Dalmiya, the driving force behind the ATC, said: "The action of the crowd cannot be tolerated or supported. Even if there was an offensive gesture this response was not justified. Ultimately the game was finished whatever the circumstances and that means cricket was the winner — if the game had been abandoned it might have been different.

"Test cricket has been played here since the time of Douglas Jardine [the first Test was staged in 1934] and this has not happened in a Test here before. I do not think this is a blot on the good name of Eden Gardens but, yes, I am disappointed with what happened. I do not think Test matches should be taken away. It remains to be seen whether the CAB will want to host an international match in the future."

Khalid Mahmood, the president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, hinted that his country might be reluctant to return to Calcutta and expressed concerns about the planned home series. He said: "The danger must be that crowds in Pakistan will have seen pictures of this and think they must take revenge. That would be very embarrassing for us and we would have to do all we could to ensure it did not happen."

Pakistan demonstrated unity and purpose and thrived in tight situations, when Wasim Akram instilled confidence in his young players. India lacked such dynamic leadership. Moves are already afoot to replace Mohammad Azharuddin with Tendulkar as captain after the ATC game between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo on Wednesday.

Wasim offered a damning critique of the Indians. "They seem to be lacking the hunger to win," he said. "They seem too dependent on Sachin's wicket, or at least that is the signal they send to rival teams. There is also the unseen pressure of expectations that seems to break the Indian team. Compared with our team, who are always egging on the bowlers, they are very passive on the field. They look like a team only when Sachin is on song."

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings 185 (Moin Khan 70; J Srinath 5 for 46) Second Innings 316 (Saeed Anwar 188 not out, Yousuf Youhana 56; Srinath 8 for 85)

INDIA: First Innings 223 (S Ramesh 79, Shoaib Akhtar 4 for 71)

Second Innings

S Ramesh lbw b Saqlain	40
V V S Laxman c Yousuf b Saqlain	67
R Dravid c Moin b Shoaib	13
S R Tendulkar run out	9
*M Azharuddin c Yousuf b Saqlain	20
S C Ganguly c Azhar b Wasim	24
†N R Mongia lbw b Shoaib	1
A Kumble c Shahid b Shoaib	16
J Srinath c Moin b Wasim	3
B K V Prasad b Shoaib	2
H Singh not out	0
Extras (b 10, lb 9, nb 18)	37
Total	232

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-108, 2-134, 3-145, 4-149, 5-183, 6-190, 7-219, 8-224, 9-231

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 20.1-5-47-4, Wasim Akram 24-4-64-2; Azhar Mahmood 6-0-23-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 25-5-69-3, Shahid Afridi 4-1-10-0

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa)



Pakistan players kneel in prayer after their victory





Security men clear the outfield after an outbreak of missile throwing while, below, *lathi*-wielding policemen chase spectators in an attempt to clear the ground

Franks sees England home

ALEXANDRA CLUB (England A won toss): England A beat Zimbabwe A by two wickets (D/L method)

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

IN A near carbon copy of their two previous matches, England A completed a clean sweep of limited-overs victories over Zimbabwe A on Saturday, prevailing in a contest which at one stage appeared beyond them.

If the one-day series has exposed a naivety on the part of the Zimbabweans in failing to drive home an indisputable advantage in all three encounters, it has also been memorable for the professionalism and spirit of England.

They were once again asked to reach an eminently attainable target, a figure revised upwards to 183 in 45 overs on the Duckworth/Lewis method after a brief interruption to rain, but the loss of early wickets gave way to a period of middle-innings circumspection. However, with Matthew Windows making 48 and Chris Read a third chirpy contribution in five days, England, apparently from nowhere, found themselves in a position from which they could launch one final bid for victory.

Paul Franks, despite losing partners, played with composure in rotating the strike to see England home by two wickets after eight runs had been needed from seven balls.

Dawson's defiance in vain

ALEXANDRA (final day of four): New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by an innings and 11 runs

FROM JOHN STERN IN ALEXANDRA

ENGLAND Under-19's failure to post a sufficient first-innings total on a good batting wicket ultimately cost them the third international yesterday and ensured that the series ended 1-1.

Batting the best part of a day to save the game should, on this wicket, have been possible. The majority of the batting was poor and did little justice to the effort and skill shown by England throughout the series. Richard Dawson, the Yorkshireman, was the only batsman to offer resistance, making an unbeaten 65.

England contrived to lose wickets in pairs. Gough and Flanagan, the openers, went on 34; Bell and Carberry departed on 61 and Bulbeck and Symington were out within two runs of each other.

There was little chance of a reprieve for England with lunch taken on 77 for six, although Dawson did well to keep the strike when batting with the tail afterwards. He and Mark Wallace, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, put on 50 for the ninth wicket. Defeat came, though, on the stroke of tea when Bridge, the No 11, was bowled by Gillespie.

Scoreboard, page 39

SWIMMING

Revenge is sweet for Rolph as title race stays open

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PARIS

SUSAN ROLPH raced back into World Cup title contention at the Georges Vallery pool here yesterday when she won the 100 metres freestyle, beating Katrin Meissner, of Germany, by just 0.05sec.

On a splendid afternoon for British swimmers, the national squad celebrating five victories, Rolph timed the margin of her 54.51sec triumph as though it were an act of deliberate defiance — Meissner, a surprise late entry in Paris, having beaten the 20-year-old from Newcastle by precisely the same slender margin over 50 metres on Saturday.

The results mean that Meissner, 26, remains eight points clear of Rolph, the Commonwealth and European short-course champion, who also won the 100 metres medley yesterday, with two rounds of the 12-event series remaining.

The British champion, who at 5ft 6in and 9st 5lb is almost six inches shorter and three stone lighter than Meissner, now faces a nail-biting two days in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, next weekend with a clear mission; not only must she defeat Meissner, but she must hope that someone else finishes ahead of her too.

James Hickman, 23, faces a more relaxed time. He will not race internationally again until the world short-course championships in Hong Kong in April. If he is as good as he was here, things look promising. The Commonwealth 200 metres butterfly champion became only the second man to swim under 52sec over 100 metres in World Cup races this season. Hickman's victory yesterday, in 51.94sec, was all the sweeter for being at the expense of Franck Esposito, the Frenchman who is world long-course champion over 200 metres.

Zoe Baker, of Sheffield, added to British glee by defeating Samantha Riley, of Australia, in the 50 metres breaststroke. Baker's time was 0.01sec inside the British record she set in Glasgow a week earlier.

There was further good news for British women's swimming as Caroline Smart, 16, finished second to Chen Hua, of China, the World Cup leader in distance freestyle, in a best time of 4min 8.37sec, the fifth fastest short-course performance over 400 metres in the world this season. Adam Ruckwood brought the British campaign to a happy close by winning the 200 metres backstroke in a time of 1min 57.59sec.

SNOOKER

Merciless Hendry puts Dott firmly in his place

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY was on the brink of dispelling the frustration created by two years without a tournament win in Great Britain when he established a virtually unassailable 8-0 lead over Graeme Dott in the final of the Scottish Open at Aberdeen yesterday.

Hendry entered the concluding session requiring only one of the remaining nine frames to collect the £60,000 first prize, capture the thirtieth world ranking title of his career, lift his 68th trophy and provide incontrovertible proof that he remains a powerful force in the game.

Yet while Hendry was sure to extract enormous satisfaction from his first success in a ranking event since the Thailand Masters 11 months ago, his 6-5 win over John Higgins in the semi-finals on Saturday might have greater long-term significance.

Hendry, the world No 1 for an unprecedented eight consecutive seasons until replaced by Higgins at the start of this campaign, trailed his compatriot 4-1 and 5-3 but breaks of 106, 81 and 76 enabled him to recover to 5-5. He erased a 5-0 deficit in the deciding frame with a 68 clearance to blue and after Higgins missed a tricky black to a middle pocket, Hendry cut it in.

After such a fightback, it was widely anticipated that Dott would suffer. The 200-1 pre-tournament outsider had come out on top in the deciding frame for the third match in succession when he edged out Ken Doherty 6-5 in their semi-final. However, involvement in that intense battle, spanning four hours and 21 minutes, inevitably took its toll. Hendry ruthlessly exploited Dott's nervousness to open the possibility of becoming only the second player to whitewash his opponent in a final.

Dott had opportunities but missed several vital pots. Hendry stole the fifth and sixth frames with last red to pink clearances before fashioning a vintage 70 clearance in the seventh, after Dott had initiated the scoring with 60. A run of 71 in the closing frame of the afternoon further increased the likelihood of Hendry emulating Steve Davis, who drubbed Dean Reynolds 10-0 in the 1989 Grand Prix.

"Winning a title is the last ingredient in getting back to form. It would be great to go to the Crucible as a winner again." Hendry, unsuccessful on home soil since he beat Tony Drago 9-1 in the International Open final at the same venue in February 1997, said.

ATHLETICS

Taylor watches Tromans display heart for battle

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY years ago, when British men's distance running was a proud institution, Dick Taylor was the athlete at the centre of attention. In one 11-week burst, Taylor set British records for 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 metres, getting in just before Dave Bedford and Ian Stewart made their marks.

The year had begun modestly, Taylor finishing sixth in the inter-counties cross country championship, although he would rectify that in 1970 by winning the title. On Saturday, Taylor was back at the inter-counties, this time as a spectator at Wollaton Park, Nottingham, to watch his son, Richard.

If Taylor Jr was hard to pick out from the pack in the senior men's 12 kilometres race — he finished 54th — his Warwickshire team leader was not. Glynn Tromans, who was born in the year that Taylor Sr was at his record-breaking best, became the first Warwickshire athlete to win the title since the old master himself.

Furthermore, Tromans is the first athlete to win an inter-counties and British cross country title after twice undergoing heart surgery. Prior to his operations, his chest would tighten while out running. He would feel short of breath, start to wheeze and his heart would thump, sometimes reaching 220 beats per minute.

As the attacks grew more frequent — he suffered 70 in all — Tromans found that, by lying flat on the ground, his heart-rate would return to normal. "People would stop in their cars and ask if I needed help," he recalled. "I would just lay there and say: 'I am alright, thanks very much.'"

After four years of attacks, Tromans was told that he had a heart condition. He was found to have extra nerve pathways to his heart. "They had to do this welding job," he said, describing how the extra pathways were cut to leave him with only the ones he should have.

Since his second operation 33 months ago, Tromans has developed into one of Britain's most consistent cross country runners. His victory on Saturday, in an event which incorporated the British trials for the world championships in Belfast next month, guarantees his selection for that event.

Tromans has given up his job as a college lecturer in marketing to concentrate on training. However, being a National Lottery-supported athlete is to live in a cut-throat environment. Tromans depends on lottery funding, but says that if he is not among the top ten European finishers in Belfast, or if he does not break 28min for 10,000 metres this summer, he will have his funding reduced.

At 29, Tromans may be older than the average first-time winner of a British cross country title, but he is young by comparison with Dave Heath, who won his, in the short-course championship, at 33. "At last, a Great Britain vest before I am 34," Heath, who guaranteed his selection for Belfast, said just after crossing the line.

Angela Mudge was the surprising but impressive winner of the women's main race.

Hansen maintains Lievin reputation

THE Lievin meeting, in northern France, lived up to its reputation yesterday as the best indoor competition outside the international championships and Ashia Hansen, from Great Britain, played a big part (David Powell writes).

In a dramatic climax to the triple jump, Hansen produced a winning leap in the last round when she jumped 14.81 metres to defeat Sarka Kasparkova, the world outdoor champion from the Czech Republic.

A number of best marks for the year were set, including two which deposed British athletes. Katharine Merry, who led the 200 metres rankings with the British record of 22.83sec, gave way to Svetlana Goncharenko, from Russia, who recorded 22.73.

In the men's 200 metres, John Regis was knocked off his perch as his 20.50sec was beaten by Kevin Little, of the United States.

Gail Devers, the double Olympic 100 metres champion from the United States, clocked 6.98sec, the first woman under seven seconds in the 60 metres event this year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Christie misses out on Gift final

■ **ATHLETICS:** Linford Christie, the 1992 Olympic 100 metres champion, underestimated his Australian opposition and missed out on the Botany Bay Gift final in Sydney yesterday. Christie, who won the 1997 Gift, was handicapped off one metre for the 120-metre race, but could finish only third in his heat and did not qualify for the final. "I thought, 'after four metres, I will catch them easy' and then I got halfway and realised I wasn't making any ground," Christie said. Rob Ballard, the former Olympian, won the race. Christie had to be satisfied with victory in the men's 100 yards championship.

Proctor boosts Croydon

■ **FOOTBALL:** Doncaster Belles, who are in second place, slipped to their second women's Premier League defeat of the season yesterday, going down 1-0 at home to Croydon, who remain unbeaten in the league (Cathy Gibb writes). Tara Proctor, the England player, scored in the fifth minute. Everton, the defending champions, surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Southampton Saints, with Anna Dimsdale scoring.

Pampling captures title

■ **GOLF:** Rodney Pampling captured his first Australasian PGA Tour title in Sydney yesterday when he won the Canon Challenge. The Australian, 29, had a closing round three-under-par 69 to finish on 270, 18 under par, and emerge victorious by three strokes over Geoff Ogilvy. Craig Spence, the winner of the Australian Masters last week, recorded a superb final round of 64 to finish in third place.

Henderson storms in

■ **CYCLING:** Jim Henderson, the national hill climb champion in his first race of the season, turned a one-second deficit at half-distance into a three-second winning margin from Peter Main in the Kingston Wheelers 14-mile time trial (Peter Bryan writes). Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner, was forced to withdraw because of an injured knee.

Oxford's double helping

■ **ROWING:** Oxford, with an experimental crew stroked by Colin von Ettingshausen, the Germany international, defeated Molesey on the Tideway yesterday over two stints, the first from Putney to Chiswick Steps and the second from the Bandstand to the Boat Race finish (Mike Rosewell writes). Oxford won both, by three lengths and two lengths.

Kafelnikov on course to take over from Sampras as world No 1 at London event

FRED ERNST



Henman was at full stretch to make this forehand return against Kafelnikov in a final which thrilled a crowd of 8,500

Henman finds comfort in final flourish

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN ROTTERDAM

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV is a man with the summit in his sights. In a final kissed by some spellbinding passages, he mastered Tim Henman here yesterday to haul himself within snatching distance of Pete Sampras's crown as the world No 1. So close is Kafelnikov that he will depose the American in London this week if he reaches the semi-finals of the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea.

The prospect is a wonderful fillip for the organisers of the fledgeling event. Indeed, on this evidence, only nerves can stop Kafelnikov — and he has showed precious few of those in the heat of battle. "It will definitely be in my mind. It is something I have dreamt about," the Russian said after his 6-2, 7-6 triumph. "It does not happen every day. Hopefully a lot of people will come to watch and I can be part of an elite group."

Given Kafelnikov's elevated status, it was a tribute to Henman that he extended the Russian close to breaking point in a second set resplendent with riveting tennis. Rarely have the four corners of any court sustained the barrage that both players unleashed. Interspersed within this cocktail of excellence were passes of sublime imagination and, particularly from Henman, drop shots of rare poise and daring. Fittingly, there was a full house of 8,500 to celebrate an occasion that was a ringing endorsement for the game.

It testifies to Henman's untapped potential that he dented Kafelnikov's armour without his potent first service. That weapon, so deadly in his 7-6, 7-6 defeat of Marat Safin in the semi-finals on Saturday, was strangely absent as Henman, forsaking his favoured serve-and-volley tactics, instead set about Kafelnikov from the baseline. His ploy reaped a handsome dividend, Henman surprising his opponent with his accuracy and power — particularly off the forehand wing.

"My serve was horrendous," Henman admitted, "but I played probably the best baseliner in the world and was dictating most of the points. That gives me a lot of confidence. If I had served better, I think I'd have had a good chance of winning the match."

These two are old foes, Kafelnikov having now prevailed in seven of their ten encounters. Yet the Russian recognised that Henman's game is developing fast. "His play from the baseline has improved very much," he said. "It always comes down to a couple of points whenever we play. This time he made some unforced errors at important times and let himself down a bit. He got a little tight, but you could not want for a better final. I wish I could play him every week — I wouldn't even mind losing."

RESULT

Kafelnikov bt Henman 6-2, 7-6

Such an outcome looked possible here after Henman took hold of the match midway through the second set. He stunned Kafelnikov when a series of rasping drives secured him a break for 4-2, then put five successive first serves into court for 5-2. He even conjured a set point in the next game — only to push a forehand return well behind the baseline.

That proved the catalyst for Kafelnikov's recovery, which he contrived through a combination of accurate serving and breakneck retrieving. A couple of loose points from Henman lost him a pivotal 5-4 game, and from that point Kafelnikov, his sap rising at the sight of the winning post, calmly snared the ensuing tie-break, and with it the match. From 3-3, he won four successive points to round off 86 minutes of thrilling entertainment. Four months ago, Henman had spurned a 5-1 lead when he played Kafelnikov in Paris. However, the detail reveals more of Kafelnikov's fighting qualities than any frailty on Henman's part.

Henman will thus remain at No 7 when the world rankings are updated this morning. He will arrive back home, if not triumphant, then certainly fuelled by the belief that he can raise his stock still higher. The game at this exalted level requires him to eliminate gifting points through bouts of carelessness. More importantly, his service still lacks the necessary consistency.

"What is encouraging is that I feel ready to take my game to a new level," he ventured after his sixth defeat in ten career finals. He has the chance to substantiate that claim, with the encouragement of a home crowd, against Jan Kroslak, of Slovakia, on Wednesday. Kroslak accounted for Chris Wilkinson, in the final qualifying round yesterday.

Henman and Kafelnikov are seeded to meet in the final on Sunday. Should they advance towards this projected encounter, London is in for quite a treat.

Novotna wins battle of contrasting styles

JANA NOVOTNA, the top seed, won an exciting clash of styles and generations when she beat Venus Williams 6-4, 6-4 in the Faber Grand Prix final in Hanover yesterday.

The Czech veteran showed more composure when it mattered on her way to a convincing win over the powerful American, the No 2 seed.

"It's been a wonderful week for me," Novotna, who lost in the final last year, said. "I had beaten her already and that gave me confidence, but it was certainly not easy."

Williams, who had beaten Steffi Graf, the local favourite, in the semi-finals on Saturday, was let down by her usually efficient service, but showed that she had more to offer than just heavy artillery, fighting out every rally and saving two match points before bowing out.

Both players had dropped serve twice when Novotna, the world No 3, produced the telling break to open up a 4-3 lead in the first set. Then a wide backhand pass from Williams handed Novotna a 4-3 lead in the second and despite wasting two match points she held her serve to win the title.

Rusedski hopes to revive morale

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT

THE mood at the Guardian Direct Cup, which starts today in Battersea Park, London, will reflect the fact that 12 months is a long time in tennis. Tim Henman entered the tournament last year in the midst of a slump, while Greg Rusedski arrived on the back of winning in Antwerp the previous week.

This time it is Rusedski who is down on his haunches. The Great Britain No 2 is expected to drop one place, to No 10, when the world rankings are updated today. And, despite reaching the semi-finals in Rotterdam last week, Rusedski's expression spoke of a man desperately short of confidence.

Rusedski was keen to accentuate the positive after his 6-4, 6-2 defeat at the hands of Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Saturday. "I played more matches last week than over the previous month," he said. "Hopefully, I can build on that in London. I am not playing the way I was in Paris in October [when he beat Pete Sampras in the final], but I am going in the right direction. I just have to start returning a little better."

Rusedski's last comment illustrates the crux of his plight. While his malfunctioning service returned with a vengeance in Rotterdam, the rest of his game deserted him. He is counting on home advantage in Battersea to revive him.

Equally disparate is the mood between Henman and Rusedski, which reached a nadir in London 12 months ago. At loggerheads then, they are now to combine in the doubles event as preparation for Great Britain's Davis Cup tie against the United States in April. The combination are in action tonight.

Henman and Rusedski are seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively behind Kafelnikov, the defending champion. This trio are joined by Richard Krajicek, the fourth member of the world's top ten, in the London field. Wild cards have been dispensed to Boris Becker, Jan Michael Gambill and Thomas Enqvist at the expense of British candidates. Of the four Britons given wild cards into the qualifying competition, only Chris Wilkinson survived his first match.

ICE HOCKEY

Devils kept at bay by Robins

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TREVOR Robins, the Nottingham Panthers netminder, produced a stunning display to help his team to a surprise 3-2 Challenge Cup semi-final first-leg win away at Cardiff Devils yesterday. After two successive Sekonda Superleague wins at Cardiff, including a 4-2 victory last Sunday, Graham Garden, the Panthers forward, scored the winning goal with less than four minutes left.

However, Paul Heavey, the Cardiff coach, will not be too worried by the one-goal deficit going into the return leg in two weeks' time, as his side have won all three meetings at Lower Parliament Street this season.

Vezio Sacratini deservedly put Cardiff ahead after eight minutes yesterday and the Panthers goal was then peppered as Mike MacWilliam, Steve Moria, Peter Ekroth and Merv Priest all tested Robins. But Nottingham held firm and were rewarded by goals from Mark Kolesar and Jamie Leach. Doug McEwen equalised early on in the third period, but Nottingham, inspired by from Robins, pounced late on, Garden grabbing the winner.

In the other semi-final, played on Saturday night, Sheffield Steelers trounced Manchester Storm, the league champions-elect, 5-0. Goals from Scott Allison, John Wynne, Ken Priestlay, David Longstaff and Tony Hand ensured that Storm crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season while being shut-out for the first time in nearly two years.

Photograph, page 39

BOWLS

Sanders in series of near misses

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

GRIFF SANDERS, of Devon, who hit the headlines when he was banned for ten years by his county outdoor association but has been enjoying a successful indoor season, has narrowly failed to qualify for the national indoor championships at Melton Mowbray.

After Devon's defeat by Durham in the semi-finals of the Liberty Trophy, Sanders, 26, still had two chances of getting through to the final stages of the nationals in the individual events.

Many bowls supporters were looking forward to seeing him in action, but, within sight of glory, he slipped up 21-11 in his area singles final against John Evans, a former Commonwealth Games silver medal-winner, and 26-24 in the area fours semi-final.

His run of bad luck continued and his hopes of winning the Egham Trophy disappeared yesterday, when his club, Teignbridge, lost 90-77 to Moonfleet in the quarter-finals of the national mixed inter-club championship.

In the semi-finals at Northampton on March 21, Moonfleet will play Cambridge Park, who have twice finished as runners-up, and who tiptoed past Folkestone, 81-80, yesterday. Concordia meet North Walsham in the other semi-final.

The Scottish Women's Indoor Bowling Association, disappointed that some of their leading players will be unavailable for the home international series in Belfast next month, turned out a full-strength side against Guernsey at the weekend and won 18-4.

BOXING: CROWD OF 1,200 GRIPPED BY TEN-ROUND ENCOUNTER

Future comfortable for Couch

Women's boxing came under the spotlight again on Saturday and passed with flying colours, as **Srikumar Sen** reports

As in the United States, women's boxing could find a niche in British promotions, thanks to the efforts of Jane Couch, the Women's International Boxing Federation and Women's Boxing Federation welterweight champion, from Fleetwood.

Couch's unanimous points victory over Marischa Sjuaw, from Holland, on Saturday dispelled doubts about whether the women's game belongs in the same arena as the men's. The contest between Couch and Sjuaw proved to be the most entertaining of the night. Almost certainly, Couch, in her second bout as a professional, was the main draw for the crowd of 1,200 at Thornaby, near Middlesbrough.

The bout was superior in every way to the inter-continental championship between Dennis Berry and David Kirk that had immediately preceded it. The performance of the women was so engrossing that the so-called "cringe factor" quickly disappeared. The technique of both women was sound and they provided non-stop action for ten rounds. Particularly impressive was the use of the ring by Sjuaw.

Larry O'Connell, one of the judges, who scored the encounter 96-95, mopped his brow immediately after the contest and said: "That was a good fight. It'll do a lot for women's boxing."

Tex Woodward, the trainer of Couch, agreed. "Jane was the one they [the crowd] came to see and I think she convinced people how good women's boxing can be. She's fresh, she's a great personality and she sells tickets. That's what boxing needs." Already Couch, 29, has been offered another contest in six weeks' time in Birmingham against a German opponent.

The bout on Saturday was a hard one, just as Woodward had predicted it would be. Sjuaw was particularly effective with the jab and two-handed assaults inside. Couch preferred to rely on short, heavier blows after decking her opponent in the first round.

Couch suffered a cut just under the hairline in the eighth round which led to a tremendous onslaught in the ninth from Sjuaw, but she was unable to find a knockout blow. The workrate of Couch impressed the judges as, despite the closeness of the contest, she was unanimously declared the winner.

Couch later needed stitches, but the doctor said the head injury would not affect future performances.

Couch, right, on her way to a points victory over Sjuaw

Duran descends into heavy farce

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RESPECTED critics have been urging Roberto Duran, the former multiple world champion, to retire for years, driven as much the memory of what had been a magnificent career as by fears for his health. They knew that the 48-year-old from Panama was in danger of becoming a laughing stock.

Last night, they were proved right as Duran, of Panama, failed to make the weight limit for his latest comeback contest in the Argentine seaside city of Mar del Plata. Organisers of his contest against Omar Gonzalez, of Argentina, were forced to cancel the bout after Duran first weighed in six kilograms over the 77kg limit, then was declared to be 80.3kg.

The event had been billed as "The Legend Continues"; instead, it began and ended in farce, with the assembled media laughing throughout the proceedings. Duran had said in the build-up to the bout that he hoped to meet his great rival, Sugar Ray Leonard, one more time, reviving memories of their great welterweight battles of the Eighties, but that prospect would appear to be increasingly remote.

In contrast, one of the welterweight champions of the modern era, Felix Trinidad, of Puerto Rico, retained his International Boxing Federation title with a unanimous points decision over Pernell Whitaker, the former six-time world champion, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Trinidad won by the impressive margins of 118-109, 118-109 and 117-110 and improved his record to 34-0 in his first bout after a ten-month lay-off. The victory also improves Trinidad's case for fighting Oscar de la Hoya, the World Boxing Council champion, in a unification bout later this year.

BASKETBALL

Myers finds his form to punish London

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

NEVER a team to react adversely to defeat, Sheffield Sharks made London Towers pay yesterday for one of their rare blemishes. By the overwhelming margin of 89-64, the Sharks atoned for the previous evening's lapse at Derby Storm to regain the joint leadership of the Budweiser League alongside Manchester Giants.

The Towers probably thought they had escaped lightly when humiliated by 34 points a month ago — the last time they met the Sharks in the Sheffield Arena. They succumbed this time to a reverse only slightly less embarrassing. Led by Terrell Myers with 26 points, Wil Johnson 19, and Todd Cauthorn, 17, the Sharks made their move, reeling off ten successive points in the second quarter to jump into a 36-22 advantage.

By comparison Myers had been a somewhat subdued figure during his team's 91-88 eclipse by the Storm. Along with Ian McKinney, the American playmaker uncharacteristically missed a three-pointer during the last 23 seconds, either of which could have forced the game into overtime.

Much earlier Bob Donewald, the Derby coach, who is between two-game bans, displayed his usual lack of integrity to incur another technical offence with an ill-versed protest to the officials. The Sharks, who failed to exploit his latest outburst, nevertheless, considered that they were subjected to the raw deal. Chris Finch, the visiting coach, said: "I am not saying it was a poorly refereed game but the referees here always referee in the style that favours Derby. This is a tough place to come."

Unless they are successful with appeals, the game was the last of the campaign for both Yorick Williams and Rico Alderson, banned for their parts in Derby's brawl at Chester last month. Williams contributed 14 points to Derby's triumph which was secured by the last of six three-pointers from Nate Reinking who finished with 24 points.

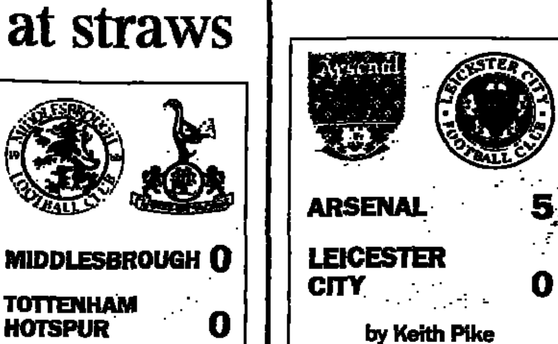
Sheffield's lousy evening was confirmed by the news that the Giants had, after all, beaten Birmingham Bullets 86-78 instead of losing by 17 points, which was the news at first relayed to them. Most prolific for the Giants in a fluctuating encounter was John White with 28 points, four more than Nigel Lloyd managed for the Bullets.

Down at the other end of the table, Worthing Bears gave Sean Loucks his first success as coach in his 29th game with a late 22-4 onslaught, that consigned Milton Keynes to defeat by 84-77.

Larry Coates and Jon Gaines shared the honours in what was a momentous occasion for the Bears with 21 points apiece. Also, near the foot of the table, Edinburgh Rocks recorded a notable victory, by 99-78 at Leicester Riders who did, however, possess the game's highest scorer in JaRon Boone, whose 33 points were to little avail.

FA Carling Premiership: Brilliance of Bergkamp outshines hat-trick by Anelka

Arsenal's star in the ascendancy



ARSENAL 5
LEICESTER CITY 0

by Keith Pike



MICHAEL COOPER / ALLSPORT

Anelka stands head and shoulders above Keller, the beaten Leicester City goalkeeper, after scoring the second goal of his hat-trick at Highbury

THE air was thick beforehand with misgivings and talk of needless gestures, but as they filed out afterwards there cannot have been an Arsenal supporter not convinced that the championship trophy is staying at Highbury: the FA Cup, too. Why fret about rematches when there are mismatches such as this to savour?

For the best part of an hour, Arsenal were awesome, a combination of breathtaking skills, hunger and confidence bordering on arrogance reducing Leicester City to helpless embarrassment in much the same way as the magnificent Liverpool pass-and-move machines of previous decades used to sweep all before them at Anfield. Yes, they were *that* good.

But if the executioner-in-chief was Nicolas Anelka, whose golden start to 1999 continued with a ruthless 22-minute hat-trick, sentence was passed by Dennis Bergkamp, who looked simply the best player on the planet. On his day, perhaps he is.

When Steve Walsh, the gnarled old Leicester defender, begged the shirt off Bergkamp's back as the players left the field, it was an acknowledgement of the Dutchman's mastery. It was also just about the only time that Walsh, or his colleagues, had got near enough to ask. "It was no problem," Bergkamp said, sheepishly.

Fourteen months earlier, Walsh had departed from the same venue with another memento, this time an own goal that had presented Arsenal with victory. He was not to know it then, but he had kick-started a run of Highbury supremacy that was to secure Arsenal the FA Carling Premiership crown and might well do again.

In their previous home game, Arsenal had been badly beaten by Blackburn Rovers and even the Boxing Day defeat of Leicester left them 13 points adrift of Manchester United. In the end, it was a stroll past them to the line. Now, the gap between Arsenal and the leaders is just five points and the champions have a game in hand and the easier-looking run-in. Since Walsh's inadvertent decider, they had won 18 and drawn five of 23 league games at Highbury, with 16 clean sheets and only seven goals conceded. And they want to move to a new ground?

But it was the quality of their football, not the weight of statistics, that crushed the life out of Leicester on Saturday and prompted Martin O'Neill, their manager, to run to the Clock End to apologise to supporters who had seen four goals thumped past Kasey Keller under their noses in 22 dizzy first-half minutes. "Martin has done a fantastic job, he doesn't have to apologise," Arsène Wenger, his opposite number, said. "It can happen to any team." It can when Arsenal are in this mood.

This was the football equivalent of *Groundhog Day* as each of their first three goals was created by Bergkamp's vision, delivery and the timing of his pass, and dispatched inside the far post from the inside right position, the first two by Anelka and the third by Ray Parlour. Vieira and Overmars set up Anelka's hat-trick tap-in on the stroke of half-time, but Bergkamp again threaded the ball through for Parlour's well-taken second, and Arsenal's fifth, early in the second half, at which point they declared, much to the relief of their weakened, woeful and traumatised opponents.

Bergkamp, disappointed to miss three decent chances of his own — he could be quite useful if he could only finish — was happy to be back to his best, having missed much of the climax of last season, including the Cup Final, and suffered from injuries and loss of form since the World Cup.

"Overall it was very smooth," he said. "You can't give those types of performances all the time and at the beginning of the season I was struggling. Now you see it is coming back, at the right time for the team as well as me."

And of Anelka, the young Frenchman who scowls as often as he scores and who is supposedly at loggerheads with most of his team-mates, Bergkamp said simply: "Ask him now if he is unhappy."

People should remember that "he is only 19 and playing in a foreign country on one of the biggest stages in the world," Bergkamp added. "Look at his record — he has opened the scoring in nine or ten games, getting the crucial goals. You see his speed and his strength and the rest of the team playing to them. He beats goalkeepers with raw power."

But the hat-trick man had to play second fiddle to Bergkamp, a perfectionist according to his manager. "Football is quite simple to analyse," Wenger said. "What is difficult is to find players like him."

ARSENAL (4-4-1-1): D Seaman — L Dixon, G Grimandi, T Adams, N Vivas — R Parlour, P Vieira (sub: S Hughes, 72min), R Garde, M Overmars (sub: K Diawara, 68) — D Bergkamp — N Anelka (sub: N Kanu, 68).
LEICESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): K Keller — P Kaamark (sub: A Impey, 46), F Sinclair, M Elliott, R Ullathorne — R Savage, T Zagorakis (sub: S Walsh, 46), N Lennon, S Guppy — M Izzet — A Gunnlaugsson (sub: G Fenton, 84).
Referee: P Durkin.

Robson's men left clutching at straws



MIDDLESBROUGH 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

by George Caulkin

SUCH are the indelible links that stretch between football and politics — when the Prime Minister intervenes in the Glenn Hoddle saga and a fallen MP preaches on matters sporting from his radio pulpit — it would not be a significant surprise to discover that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is a closet Middlesbrough supporter.

There were curious echoes on Teesside last week when Straw exhorted the nation to "have a go", to stand up and be counted in the war against crime. From a strong position actively to promote European integration, to a grim battle against devaluation, Middlesbrough's honeymoon is long since over. As in life, so in football, collective responsibility is the latest phrase and Bryan Robson's side have evidently not heard the message.

So, fresh from a 5-0 defeat away to Everton, they paid heed to Straw's words and called a team meeting to clear the air and cleanse the system. To have a go.

"Talking is good therapy, isn't it?" Robbie Mustoe, the Middlesbrough midfield player, said. The result was a performance against Tottenham Hotspur that was so utterly witless that even the half-time entertainment was roundly jeered, but the home team did at least keep a clean sheet.

"The whole club needs to pull together to turn this around," Mustoe said after his side's ninth match without a win. "We've got to roll our sleeves up, speak out and do something to improve the situation."

The next direction that Middlesbrough take will be interesting, for firm leadership can sometimes engineer hasty decisions. Just ask the Football Association.

The call is even being made for Robson to forget the unhappy theatrics of two years ago and re-sign Emerson, who, in between homesick flights to Brazil, sporadically performed in the team's midfield and is now unsettled at Tenerife, his present club. It would be akin to throwing a drowning man a Polo mint because it vaguely resembles a life belt.

Emerson may appear to be a rugged, holding player of the type that Middlesbrough require, but what of the baggage and resentment that accompanies him? Poison in the dressing-room undermined the squad the last time they were relegated and, as Mustoe testified, "there are no bad eggs" now.

Miscreants there are,



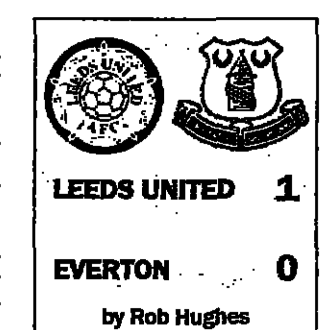
Gascoigne: booked

however, a fact underlined by Paul Gascoigne's eleventh yellow card this season, which heralds an imminent visit to Lancaster Gate to explain his actions. The decision earned Rob Harris, the referee, a severe rebuke from both managers.

Tottenham forged the best of few chances — Vega hitting the post with a header, Vickers clearing a shot by Taricco from the line — and much of a record crowd at the Riverside Stadium grumbled home early. It can be a grubby business, football.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): M Schwarzer — S Vickers, G Pallister, C Cooper — R Stockdale, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, A Townsend, D Gordon — M Beck (sub: A Campbell, 75min), A Moore (sub: H Ricard, 58).
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, M Taricco — D Anderton, S Freund, T Sherwood, D Ginola — S Iversen, L Ferdinand (sub: C Armstrong, 46).
Referee: R Harris

Tired excuses for state of British industry



LEEDS UNITED 1
EVERTON 0

by Rob Hughes

TIME changes everything. Back when Kevin Keegan ran like a wound-up toy — and Billy Bremner and Alan Ball inflamed the contests between Leeds United and Everton — England's clubs thrived on industry and an appetite for matches in midweek and at the weekend. Players preferred extra games to the drudgery of training. Now playing twice a week is the excuse for anaemic displays such as that which Leeds and Everton served up before 36,344 short-changed customers at Elland Road.

The injury lists are long, young replacements are entitled to some inconsistency, but Leeds, for heaven's sake, are fifth in the FA Carling Premiership. Both managers blamed the strain of midweek, although each had enjoyed handsome, presumably invigorating, victories. Yet this game started tentatively, then slowed into a torpor that Bremner, surely, would have taken by the scruff of the neck.

Leeds, admittedly without seven wounded senior players, got their excuses in first, through the programme notes of David O'Leary, the manager, who said that his lads had been overachieving. The bright young things who had cut such a vivacious rhythm could not be burdened with sustaining it. O'Leary also suggested that unless he can sign five players of quality before the transfer deadline next month, the challenge for Europe through the league is unrealistic. Nevertheless, a goal from Willem Korsten, on loan from Vitesse Arnhem, enabled Leeds to gain on fellow European aspirants Liverpool and Aston Villa.

"The goal and the three points pleased me," O'Leary said, "not much else did. The babies are playing for me, they are doing fantastically well for themselves, but you need 22 quality players to sustain a challenge. Our injury list is frightening and our bench is nowhere near what you see at Chelsea or Man United."

O'Leary's lament was solemnly echoed by Walter Smith whose Everton side, the same XI that beat Middlesbrough 5-0, returned to their customary blues. A header wildly over the bar from Nick Barmby and a shot by Don Hutchison that drifted beyond the far post were the sum total of Everton's first-half efforts.

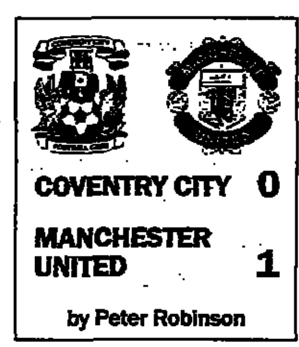
Leeds were scarcely more enterprising. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink failed to force the ball past Myhre's left hand. Hasselbaink had two wake-up calls, one in the dressing-room, one on the back of the head where he was stunned by a Marco Materazzi clearance.

Revived, Hasselbaink smartly linked from Hopkin on the halfway line to Korsten sprinting in from the left in the 55th minute. Swift and sturdy, if not yet up to Premiership stamina levels, Korsten struck home a low, angled shot from eight yards. O'Leary has until May to decide whether to offer him a permanent contract.

When Alan Smith joined the attack, Leeds improved and, from Smith's cut-back, Hasselbaink scooped the ball inelegantly high. Hasselbaink later escaped caution for a spiteful lunge at the ankle of Dunne and, in injury time, prevented an equaliser by heading a goal-bound effort from Materazzi from beneath the crossbar. It was as close as that.

Everton were not outclassed nor outfought, but Hutchison and Barmby could not reproduce their form of Wednesday and, although Francis Jeffers, slender and precocious, ran imaginatively, he was brushed off the ball lightly. The "boys" may for once be appropriate jargon, but they simply could not raise their game. So memories drifted back to older men, among whom Norman Hunter and Allan Clarke were at the game.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe, I Harte — A-I Haaland, L Bowyer (sub: M Jones, 85min), D Hopkin, W Korsten — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell (sub: A Smith, 70).
EVERTON (4-4-1-1): T Myhre — R Dunne, M Materazzi, D Unsworth, M Ball — J Oster (sub: D Weir, 76), O Dacourt, A Grant (sub: I Bakayoko, 62), N Barmby — D Hutchison — F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri, 62).
Referee: D Elleray



COVENTRY CITY 0
MANCHESTER UNITED 1

by Peter Robinson



Giggs, of Manchester United, celebrates after volleying home the only goal at Highfield Road on Saturday

Giggs provides suitable finale

IT IS an obsession and, with each passing year, it gets worse. Everything else is subservient, secondary. Everything else has been achieved, but the honour that is prized above all others remains as elusive as ever. The European Cup has become as much an affliction for Manchester United as it is an ambition.

The club has built up the trophy into something almost mystical, almost but not quite a Holy Grail, a *raison d'être*. It has come to dominate life at Old Trafford to such a degree that winning championships is seen merely as a means to an end, to booking a place in the Champions' League, that winning FA Cups is nice but not exactly necessary, that the League Cup, in any guise, is simply a pest. Worse, every time the European Cup slips through their hands, every time they fail to bring the trophy back to Manchester, the sense of letdown grows greater.

Saturday was a good example. The visit to Coventry City was not only a fixture in the FA Carling Premiership, there were other, greater considerations. It was a chance to give Ryan Giggs a run after he had been struggling with a hamstring injury, to blow some of the cobwebs out of his system before United take on Internazionale in the European Cup quarter-finals next week. It was a day to protect anybody who might be feeling a bit vulnerable or sore, so as soon as Jaap Stam felt a twinge in his hamstring, he was off, substituted, purely as a precaution, you understand: he'll be fine for Inter.

Beating Coventry was almost taken as read. No matter that United had lost at Highfield Road last season, it was never on the cards this time, no matter how well Coventry played or how hard they fought. In the event, they played quite well, fought very hard, but the script to a drab game said that the winning goal had to have some kind of relevance to Europe, so it was Giggs who scored it, hooking in a volley at the far post after a deep cross by Beckham, which skimmed the top of Solskjaer's head before reaching the Welshman.

"Giggs needed the game," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said afterwards. "There was no point in going easy with him for two weeks and then finding he hasn't got the stamina for the quarter-final. He is the type of player who needs games, anyway."

There were other plus points for Ferguson, too, notably in the imposing Schmeichel — "he is back to his very, very best" — and in his defence, which coped admirably with the threat posed by Huckerby, a kind of corner shop version of Ronaldo, the Inter striker, a strong, head-down dribbler with an eye for goal.

Ferguson described the result as "very, very important, more important than what has happened elsewhere today [with wins for Arsenal and Chelsea]", but you wondered how much this was polite good manners as much as anything else. Apart from a shot by Boateng, acrobatically saved by Schmeichel, another by Whelan, which flew narrowly over the crossbar, both in the first half, and then a late effort by Boateng, which Irwin deflected for a corner, Coventry created little. Indeed, it was from that corner that United broke upfield and Giggs scored his goal.

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, looked miserable by the finish, and with good reason. Defeat had left his team in the bottom three of the Premiership at a time when relegation rivals are running into form and he knew, better than anyone, that this is not a time to start losing games at home.

Then again, if United fail to beat Inter over the two legs of their quarter-final, Strachan's gloom will be nothing compared to that of Ferguson and United. Obsessions have that kind of effect on you.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows (sub: T E Soltvedt, 85min) — G Boateng, P Telfer, G McAllister, S Froggatt — D Huckerby, N Whelan (sub: J Aloisi, 64).
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, J Stam (sub: H Berg, 45), R Johnsen, D Irwin — D Beckham, P Scholes, R Keane, R Giggs — D Yorke (sub: P Neville, 85), A Cole (sub: O G Solskjaer, 73).
Referee: D Gallagher

Weary Chelsea fail to endorse title credentials



NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
CHELSEA 3

by Alyson Rudd

A GROUP of children hammered on the window as Ron Atkinson tried to sound upbeat. He looked up at them tiredly. Perhaps the Nottingham Forest stewards could have been faster off the mark dispersing them, but they were too busy gazing adoringly at the big-name Chelsea players as one by one they ran to their coach. "Careful, they'll mob you," the doorman said to each and every player. It was all so, well, so first division.

This was the worst possible outcome from Nottingham Forest's point of view. They lost and, to compound matters, did so while playing as well as they have under Atkinson, and probably as well as they can. Relegation looks inevitable — even with a dozen matches still to play.

Charlton Athletic, who have sped away from the bottom three in the past fortnight, ought to offer hope, an example of what can be achieved. But their poor run can, in part, be attributed to bad luck.

Forest have so little in reserve. They passed the ball intelligently against Chelsea and tactically held the upper hand. Bonalair man-marked Zola and as a consequence the Italian struggled to make any impact.

The home side created a string of chances, too, but took only the one, when Johnson's lofted ball confused Leboeuf and left Van Hooijdonk with a clear view of goal. Van Hooijdonk is so obviously Forest's classiest player that they seem intent on ensuring that he covers the entire pitch in order to allow some of his ability to rub off on the rest. But it is counter-productive, for example, to give him the responsibility of taking the corner kicks when he could create havoc inside the area.

And Chelsea creaked. Too many of their players performed poorly: Ferrer, Petrescu, Desailly and Leboeuf were all disappointing, but the visiting team at least had Goldbaek and Forssell to rescue them.

Forssell is, technically, just a schoolboy in a strange land, but the 17-year-old is clearly capable of combining the sitting of exams back home in Finland with giving one of Europe's top clubs the lead in a difficult match. Forssell even stumbled as he left Beasant and Chettle stranded, but he did not lose his nerve and put Chelsea ahead with only five minutes played.

The contribution of Goldbaek was more vital still. The Denmark international is solid, direct and unrelenting, and although both his goals were straightforward, he could have had more. In short, he put Forest under the sort of pressure that a team challenging for the title should exert.

Goldbaek's vitality was in stark contrast to the tiredness being displayed by many of his team-mates. Vialli's tough fitness regime has given added bite to the evident skills of the players, but judged on this display they are being pushed too hard and, perhaps, a new fitness programme should be adopted.

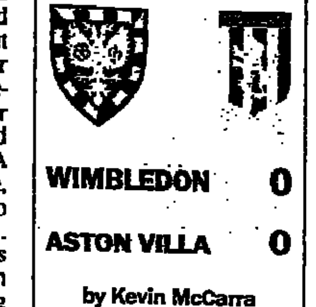
Few followers of football are enamoured with Chelsea's present form and Manchester United and Arsenal are the names that trip off the tongue when the title is discussed. This is because Chelsea look on the verge of implosion. Even during their impressive start to the season they never seemed to enjoy the luxury of cruising to victory, and that partly explains why they are so tired now.

Both Vialli and Atkinson are staring at the biggest challenge of their careers thus far. It would be interesting to see how they fared if they swapped places for a month. They won't, but each would find it an interesting vacation.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (2-1-5-2): D Beasant — C Palmer, S Chettle — T Bonalair — M Louis-Jean, S Stone, A Johnson (sub: S Gemmill, 89min), N Quashie (sub: H Porfirio, 70), A Rogers — P van Hooijdonk, J-C Darcheville (sub: N Shipperley, 85).
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer, B Lambourde, F Leboeuf, C Babayaro — D Petrescu (sub: E Newton, 46), M Desailly, J Morris, B Goldbaek — M Forssell (sub: M Nicholls, 86), G Zola (sub: T A Flo, 62).
Referee: J Winter.

FA Carling Premiership: Wimbledon's goalless run extended beyond six hours

Frustrated Villa lose more ground



WIMBLEDON 0
ASTON VILLA 0

by Kevin McCarra

WIMBLEDON and Aston Villa mended their records, but failed to heal their spirits. They had, respectively, lost their previous three and four matches. A draw, all the same, cannot be enough to galvanise ambition. A slow subsidence is taking place, with Wimbledon faltering in their efforts to claim a place in European competition and Villa now standing ten points behind Manchester United, the FA Carling Premiership leaders.

The brightness with which the visitors started was ephemeral, as if a match had been struck that would flare briefly before fizzling down to embers. Villa's handicaps this season have usually lain in a lack of real creativity in the build-up and even when they were expert in this game the forwards were not quite sharp enough to capitalise.

Wimbledon have become predictable rather than methodical, their vitality sapped by defeat in both the FA Cup and the Worthington Cup. In the weary, late days of the season, rejuvenation is hard to come by and it is as difficult to escape forlorn feelings as it is to slip out of a straitjacket. Villa do deserve credit for suggesting, at the outset, that they might actually be escapologists.

Although John Gregory, their manager, still clings to hope of the title, he did sacrifice an article of faith. The usual three-man defence was replaced by a back four, an alteration suggested to him by the difficulties that see Ehiogu recuperating from surgery and Barry, a teenager, in need of respite from the Premiership. No matter its origins, the recasting was of value to the visitors.

A formation, in itself, is never a solution, but the 4-4-2 system can encourage briskness and Villa, in the first half hour, shed the sluggishness of recent weeks. There was a dashing quality to the attacking, despite the disobliging circumstances. At Selhurst Park, the two sides not only face one another, but also fight against a lamentable surface. Last Tuesday, the pitch trounced both Wimbledon and Tottenham Hotspur, even if the latter did win the Worthington Cup semi-final 1-0.

Villa, initially, were in no need to be mastered in such a fashion. Those who believe that poor conditions favour the better players, since they have the capacity to adapt, could summon Paul Merson in evidence. In the eleventh minute, he dug his foot under the ball to send a chip over the Wimbledon defence, with back spin commanding it to halt at the feet of Joachim, who was foiled by an immaculately-timed tackle by Thatcher.

There was to be little more aplomb from the full back, soon injured and replaced. Disruption was hard on Wimbledon, who found it difficult to settle. Of course, it is difficult for a side to settle when it is so often swaying with alarm in its own goalmouth. Villa might have scored in the first minute, when Dion Dublin collected a clearance from Watson and hit a drive that was tipped over by Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper.

After a quarter of an hour, Joachim turned away from Blackwell to feed Grayson, who was foiled by the alertness of Sullivan. Despite their rightly-prized strength of mind, Wimbledon found that, on this afternoon, no depth of character could bring them parity of esteem. In the score, of course, they did remain on equal terms.

Villa endeavoured to conduct themselves like contenders for the title, even if they are no longer described as such. Yet, they were unable to exhibit ruthlessness. The ensuing disquiet was justified since Villa, at present, experience a small countdown in each match as Dublin's condition deteriorates. His groin strain generally forces an early substitution, and although his involvement was maintained yesterday his influence waned.

Wimbledon sensed that their moment might be approaching. Two minutes before the interval, Michael Oakes snatched Ardley's drive at the second attempt and, 12 minutes into the second half, the Villa goalkeeper made a good save from Gayle's half-volley, turning that effort over the bar.

In the 68th minute, Oakes did not so much reach the ball as find it deposited in his grasp. Euell had worked his way to the byline and his cross dropped flush on the head of Efan Ekoku, who directed it straight to the goalkeeper. That type of a move was a rarity for Wimbledon and, despite their urgency, a lack of refinement in the build-up has brought a steady decline for Joe Kinnear's side. They have now failed to score in more than six hours of Premiership inaction.

It will therefore be especially frustrating for the manager that Hughes, his stylish left winger, is now so severely hampered by his hernia that he was not even in the squad yesterday. He will have to undergo an operation in due course and some other form of drastic surgery is required if either Wimbledon or Villa are to revive their season.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher (sub: A Kimble, 25min) — N Ardley, A Roberts, R Earle, J Euell — M Gayle, E Ekoku (sub: C Leaburn, 87).
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Oakes — S Watson, R Scimeca, G Southgate, A Wright — P Merson, S Grayson, I Taylor, L Hendrie — D Dublin, J Joachim (sub: S Collymore, 77).
Referee: P Alcock



LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT

Joachim, who was taken off near the end of the match, stretches to get the better of Blackwell at Selhurst Park yesterday

Blackburn suffer a Rudi wakening



BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 4

by Stephen Wood

BEING a player with the meandering gait of Chris Waddle and the permanently perplexed expression of Darren Anderton does not necessarily confer advantages on Petter Rudi, the Sheffield Wednesday midfield player, who has played something of a supporting role in the FA Carling Premiership since an £800,000 move from Molde, of Norway, last season.

But the two goals that he scored against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday were show-stealing in their quality, providing evidence that the perseverance of Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, is bearing fruit.

"No", was the indignant and rather shocked response from Rudi when asked if they were the best goals he had ever scored. Back in Molde, it appears, the Norway international was a roaring success, although perhaps not as celebrated as another Molde graduate. "I used to play with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer [the Manchester United forward]," he said. "It was always me providing the chances for him, so I think I helped make him a star!"

Now, at Wednesday, Rudi has players around him that can conjure up an opportunity or two. Saturday at Ewood Park was one of those days when Wednesday blew hot, for Carbone, Alexandersson, Sonner and, in particular, Wim Jonk, were just as masterful as Rudi as Blackburn went down to their worst defeat of the season.

Swift passing and movement helped move Wilson's team out of immediate relegation trouble, but pushed the home side down to within a point of the bottom three, making Brian Kidd's programme notes especially pertinent. "Our work for the season is nowhere near finished," he wrote. "That's not being negative, that's being realistic.

Results and tables, page 30

We are not in the comfort zone yet — not by a long way." After watching four goals leak through what has been an otherwise steadfast defence, the Blackburn manager was perversely upbeat. "I am not panicking," he said.

"We were just a team running on empty after a couple of tough weeks." Whatever mood takes him, Kidd is not foolish enough to think that a run of two defeats in 14 matches automatically means that Blackburn are too good for the Nationwide League first division.

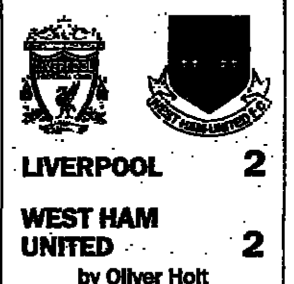
"We have been working on his running off the ball," Wilson said of Rudi. "It's nice that something you concentrate on in training actually pays off in a match. There are not many players who have an engine like Petter's, and now we'd like to see him score on a regular basis."

Sonner, purchased from Ipswich Town for £75,000, opened the scoring after 20 minutes before Rudi struck twice in three minutes before half-time. His first was a powerful right-foot shot from 18 yards after some wonderful skill from Carbone, and his second an athletic header after a breakaway movement.

Jason McAteer pulled one back with a deflected shot midway through the second half, but Andy Booth got Wednesday's fourth eight minutes from time. "I do not know what went wrong," Stephane Henchoz, the Blackburn defender, said. "It was one of those days when you wished you'd stayed in bed."

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filan — J Kenna, S Henchoz (sub: D Peacock, 50min), M Broomes, C Davidson — K Gillespie, J McAteer, D Dunn, D Duff — A Ward, M Jansen (sub: N Blake, 46).
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, E Thome, D Walker (sub: L Briscoe, 45), A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner (sub: J Cobian, 59), P Rudi — A Booth, B Carbone.
Referee: A Wilkie

McManaman pays price for leaving of Liverpool



LIVERPOOL 2
WEST HAM UNITED 2

by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

FOOTBALL supporters, even at Anfield where the howling, visceral emotion of the game still pours down from the stands, are fickle friends. On Saturday, midway through the second half, in a muted kind of way that suggested they were almost ashamed of themselves, they booed Steve McManaman off the pitch.

McManaman had not had one of his better games. The wires in his almost telepathic relationship with Robbie Fowler seemed to have got temporarily crossed. His promptings were almost invariably intercepted, his runs were stopped with solid tackles.

The catcallers and the critics overlooked the fact that he created Liverpool's second goal for Michael Owen with a jink in from the flank and a short, neat pass. Complex feelings of frustration and rejection are welling up inside them when it comes to the player who is one of their favourite sons.

McManaman had already played once at Anfield since the news broke that he would be leaving for Real Madrid at the end of the season, but that was in the 3-1 victory over Middlesbrough a fortnight ago when the supporters had no excuse to express their displeasure at his move.

In this uneven game between two struggling teams, though, there was plenty of time to search out a scapegoat for another season that seems to be passing Liverpool by and, in the end, it was McManaman who was singled out.

He did not play more indifferently than many of his team-mates, but when Patrik Berger got ready to come on in the 66th minute and McManaman's number flashed up on the electronic scoreboard, a tumultuous cheer went up around the ground followed by the chorus of boos as he trudged off.

It is bound to be a difficult time for him, this three-month spell in limbo when everyone knows that he has signed for Real but he is still playing for his hometown club. As he appreciates only too keenly, it leaves him open to suggestions that he is saving his best for Spain.

That is not McManaman's way. Apart from anything else, he and Fowler, who scored Liverpool's first with a thunderous rising left-foot drive in the first half, both know that new life may be about to be breathed into their England careers now that Glenn Hoddle has gone and Kevin Keegan has taken over.

Keegan is known to be an admirer of McManaman, in particular, and Terry Venables, the former England coach, urged Keegan yesterday not to waste his elusive talent in the same way that Hoddle had done. In that respect, McManaman and Fowler have everything to play for. Nor should it be forgotten that in these days of players who wander from club to club like minstrels, McManaman has shown an unusual degree of loyalty to Liverpool.

The statistics prove that, with 353 appearances to his name, he has played almost 100 games more for the Anfield club than any other present Liverpool player. He may only be 27, but he has already contributed enough to be considered a stalwart. It is his misfortune and that of other talents such as Fowler and Redknapp that the majority of his time at the club has been spent in a ongoing period of painful transition from the great days of Shankly, Paisley, Fagan and Dalglish.

In all those years, the rich attacking resources of the club have been undermined by an inability to shore up the defence, a trend that continued on Saturday with a result correctly interpreted by Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, as Liverpool 2 Liverpool 2.

The irony of McManaman's situation, though, is that he may be leaving just when Liverpool are on the verge of getting it right. There have been false dawns before, but Houllier seems to have the necessary mix of grit, patience and coaching ability to create a viable challenge to Arsenal and Manchester United.

Houllier absolved McManaman from any blame for a Liverpool performance that came close to allowing West Ham United to secure their first victory at Anfield for 36 years. The visitors, so heavily depleted that they had to field Joe Cole, the 17-year-old prodigy, and Trevor Sinclair, in attack, offered little threat for most of the game but still could have snatched a win.

After a Frank Lampard penalty had cancelled out Fowler's goal and Marc Keller had equalised Owen's deflected shot with a corner that crept straight in at the near post, Sinclair had a golden chance to steal victory when he beat the offside trap four minutes from the end and found himself bearing down on David James. He lifted the ball over the Liverpool goalkeeper but it sailed over the crossbar.

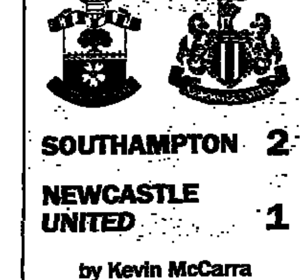
McManaman was on the bench by then. The supporters might think he has his mind on Europe, but they will need him if Liverpool are to get there themselves next season.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — R Song, S Staunton, P Babb — V Heggem, J Carragher, J Redknapp, S McManaman (sub: P Berger, 66min), S I Bjornebye (sub: K Riedle, 77) — M Owen, R Fowler.
WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): S Hislop — I Pearce (sub: S Lazaridis, 82), R Ferdinand, S Potts — S Lomas, M-V Foe, F Lampard, E Berkovic, S Minto (sub: M Keller, 73) — J Cole (sub: G Holligan, 80), T Sinclair.
Referee: N Barry



McManaman: booed by some supporters as he left the field

Beattie supplies raw materials



SOUTHAMPTON 2
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1

by Kevin McCarra

NEWCASTLE United's howlers allowed Southampton their yelps of joy. In sport, layers of sophistication and expertise occasionally unravel to bare the core of human fallibility. Steve Howey and Didier Domi were left shivering after crass mistakes had cost their team this match. With a third successive victory at The Dell, Southampton might prefer to dwell on the increasing spikiness that could keep them in the FA Carling Premiership for another year.

Pluck, however, is not half as valuable as blunders by the opposition. Newcastle were so superior at the start of this match on Saturday that the performance verged on the snooty. Rattling, one-touch moves in the midfield were followed by swooping runs on the wing as the visitors treated the Southampton like yokels. Then, against all reason, it was Ruud Gullit's team who proved to be the village idiots.

In the sixteenth minute, Howey's pass back was lamentably short and James Beattie rounded Shay Given, the goalkeeper, to finish. Two minutes from the interval, Domi, left to mark the tall Egil Ostenstad, panicked when a cross was delivered and held the forward. Such incidents can be missed or ignored, and Ostenstad felt fortunate to be awarded the penalty, but it was merited. Dodd converted with a boom. Game over.

Newcastle were as confused as they were crestfallen and Howey, having brought down Beattie in the 45th minute, waited anxiously before learning that the offence would earn him a yellow card rather than dismissal. He and his team had taken a wrecking-ball to their own confidence. Dave Jones, a candid manager, volunteered the information that he knew within the opening minutes that Southampton would not play well.

The side is at least conscientious and Chris Marsden, the new signing from Birmingham City, injects his eagerness into the rest of the midfield. For his part, Beattie, broad-shouldered and quick, can tax centre backs. He was a speculative signing, taken from Blackburn Rovers as a makeweight in the £7.5 million move that sent Kevin Davies to Ewood Park. Beattie, not quite 21, has still to master the wiles demanded inside the penalty area. With a morose sort of optimism, one fan said: "He'd score a lot of goals in the first division." That proposition will not be tested if Southampton continue to pocket points at their present rate.

Newcastle, who have not won at The Dell since 1972, had best forget an afternoon of foggy thinking. Steve Clarke, a coach, explained that Nolberto Solano was replaced at the interval for "tactical reasons". The introduction of Rob Lee may have been intended to make the side more compact and his cross, abetted by a deflection, did bring a headed goal for Dietmar Hamann in the 86th minute. Nonetheless, the strategists disregarded the important fact that the winger had been by far the most effective figure for Newcastle.

When the match was goalless, his cross set up Alan Shearer for a header that was saved and Solano's pass put the same forward through for a chance that he could not quite take from a demanding angle. When Newcastle were just 1-0 down, the Peruvian hit the crossbar with a finely crafted free kick. Until Hamann scored, Solano's absence made for a second-half that was, in Jones's own words, "cigar time" for the Southampton manager.

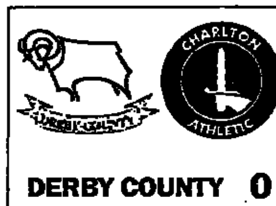
Few other adversaries will be as wrong-headed as Newcastle were. With a BMW bearing a personalised numberplate, Beattie's own journeys are smooth, but Southampton still have some way to go on a rocky road.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, P Colleter — S Ripley (sub: W Bridge, 46min), M Oakley, C Marsden, H Kachloul (sub: D Hughes, 65) — E Ostenstad, J Beattie (sub: S Bradley, 75).
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — L Charvet, S Howey, N Dabizas, D Domi — N Solano (sub: R Lee, 46), D Hamann, G Speed, G Brady — A Shearer, T Ketsbaia.
Referee: G Poll



Howey: costly mistake

Barnes adds weight



DERBY COUNTY 0
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2

by Nick Szczepanik

MOST managers in the situation in which Alan Curbishley found himself three weeks ago — in the relegation zone of the FA Carling Premiership with the most recent victory a distant memory — would have looked around for what are often euphemistically called "battlers". Instead, the Charlton Athletic manager signed an unfit, 35-year-old who was becoming better known for loud-suited television punditry and who has never been famous for work-rate.

However, he saw in John Barnes a player who had something to prove: someone who, whatever Newcastle United might think, was still capable of playing in the top division. True, Barnes's new squad number, 37, could almost be his waist size, but, even some way over his ideal fighting weight, he still has plenty to contribute.

"I thought I was coming to a club in dire straits, really, because I didn't see the spirit in the camp: all I saw was the position," Barnes said. "You'd think a manager in his position would snap at the players, but he doesn't, he's been brilliant. The biggest thing about relegation battles, or going for the championship, is pressure. The most important thing is how you handle it."

"I take account of the fact that he can't move around so much, but I'll take everything else," Curbishley said. "We're going to go into a pressure situation and I don't think he's going to be overawed by it. He will still try to do the things he's good at."

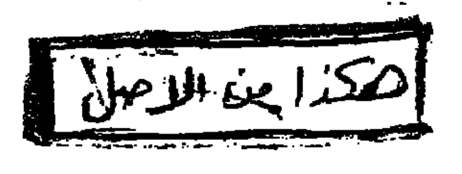
On Saturday, as Charlton won their third game in a row since Barnes signed for the remainder of the season, those things included some inch-perfect passes, four distinctly average corner kicks and, perhaps most importantly, a composed approach in an otherwise scatterbrained game. He came off the bench after only 18 minutes to help to ensure that the Charlton revival continued at the expense of a Derby County side who gave what Jim Smith, their manager, described as "our worst Premiership performance, by a stretch".

Dean Sturridge was the main threat to Charlton's third successive clean sheet with two near-post efforts and a second-half header that he put straight at Simon Royce. Minutes later, a strong run by Mills forced a corner that Derby could not clear and Andy Hunt rolled his shot just inside the far post. Five minutes from time, Martin Pringle broke away to put the result beyond doubt and lift Charlton out of the bottom three.

People began to stream out of Pride Park at that point, but they might have done better to stay and savour what might be the farewell appearance at their ground of a former great; in southeast London they are not so blasé. A recent five-a-side at the Charlton training ground attracted a crowd as Barnes lined up alongside Curbishley and his staff. "All the academy lads came and watched it," Curbishley said. "And I don't think they were there to see Mervyn Day and me."

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hoult — S Prior, I Stimac, J Laursen (sub: K Harper, 77min) — R Delap (sub: L Bohinen, 61), L Carsley, S Eranio, D Powell, A Dorigo — D Sturridge (sub: P Wanchope, 61), D Burton.
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C Tiler, S Powell — J Robinson (sub: C Mendonca, 73), K Jones (sub: A Barness, 86), M Kinsella (sub: J Barnes, 18), N Redfearn — M Pringle, A Hunt.
Referee: U Rennie





FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL (4) 5 — **LEICESTER** (0) 0
Anelka 23, 27, 44; Parlour 42, 48 — 38,069

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, G Grimandi, T Adams, N Vivas, R Parlour, P Vieira (sub: S Hughes 71min), R Garde, M Overmars (sub: N Kanu 67), N Anelka (sub: K Diawara 67), D Bergkamp

Leicester City: K Keller, F Sinclair, P Kaamark (sub: A Impey 45), M Elliott, R Ullathorne, R Savage, N Lennon, T Zagorakis (sub: S Walsh 45), M Izzet, S Guppy, A Gudjonsson (sub: G Fenton 84).

Referee: P Durkin.

BLACKBURN (0) 1 — **SHEFFIELD WED** (3) 4
McAteer 68; 24,643 — Sonner 20; Rudi 40, 43, Booth 82

Blackburn Rovers: J Filan, J Kenna, S Henchoz (sub: D Peacock 49min), M Broomes, C Davidson, K Gillespie, D Dunn, J McAteer, D Duff, A Ward, M Jansen (sub: N Blake 46).

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, N Alexandersson, D Walker (sub: L Briscoe 45), A Hinchcliffe, E Thome, W Jonk, P Rudi, D Sonner (sub: J Cobian 58), A Booth, B Carbone

Booked: Carbone. Referee: A Wilkie.

COVENTRY (0) 0 — **MAN UTD** (0) 1
22,596 — Giggs 78

Coventry City: M Hedman, R Nilsson, D Burrows (sub: T E Solvedt 85min), P Williams, R Shaw, G McAllister, G Boateng, P Telfer, S Froggatt, D Huckerby, N Whelan (sub: J Aloisi 64).

Booked: Burrows, Boateng.

Manchester Utd: P Schmeichel, G Neville, D Irwin, R Johnsen, J Stam (sub: H Berg 45), R Giggs, R Keane, P Scholes, D Beckham, A Cole (sub: O G Solskjaer 73), D Yorke (sub: P Neville 85).

Booked: Scholes, Stam, Cole. Referee: D Gallagher.

DERBY (0) 0 — **CHARLTON** (0) 2
27,853 — Hunt 64, Pringle 86

Derby County: R Hoult, S Prior, I Stimac, J Laursen (sub: K Harper 78min), R Delap (sub: L Bohinen 61), D Powell, L Carsley, S Eranio, A Dorigo, D Sturridge (sub: P Wanchope 61), D Burton.

Charlton Athletic: S Royce, D Mills, C Tiler, S Brown, C Powell, N Redfearn, M Kinsella (sub: J Barnes 19), K Jones (sub: A Barness 65), M Pringle, A Hunt, J Robinson (sub: C Mendonca 73).

Booked: Robinson. Referee: U Rennie.

LEEDS (0) 1 — **EVERTON** (0) 0
Korsten 55 — 38,344

Leeds: N Martyn, G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe, I Harte, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, L Bowyer (sub: M Jones 84min), W Korsten, J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell (sub: A Smith 69)

Booked: Haaland, Hasselbaink.

Everton: T Myhre, R Dunne, M Materazzi, D Unsworth, M Ball, J Oster (sub: D Weir 75), O Dacourt, A Grant (sub: I Bakayoko 61), N Barmby, D Hutchison, F Jeffers (sub: D Cadamarteri 61).

Booked: Barmby, Dunne. Referee: D Elleray

LIVERPOOL (2) 2 — **WEST HAM** (1) 2
Fowler 22; Owen 45; 44,511 — Lampard 24 (pen); Keller 74

Liverpool: D James, V Heggem, R Song, S Staunton, P Babb, S I Bjornebye (sub: K Riedle 77min), J Carragher, J Redknapp, S McManaman (sub: P Berger 68), R Fowler, M Owen.

Booked: Carragher.

West Ham: S Hislop, T Sinclair, S Potts, R Ferdinand, I Pearce (sub: S Lazaridis 82), S Minto (sub: M Keller 71), F Lampard, M Foe, S Lomas, E Berkovic, J Cole (sub: G Holligan 80).

Booked: Potts, Sinclair. Referee: N Barry.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 0 — **TOTTENHAM** (0) 0
34,687

Middlesbrough: M Schwarzer, R Stockdale, S Vickers, C Cooper, G Pallister, D Gordon, R Mustoe, P Gascoigne, A Townsend, A Moore (sub: H Ricard 58min), M Beck (sub: A Campbell 75).

Booked: Gascoigne, Townsend, Cooper, Stockdale.

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, S Carr, S Campbell, R Vega, M Taricco, D Anderton, T Sherwood, D Ginola, S Freund, L Ferdinand (sub: C Armstrong 46), S Iversen.

Booked: Vega, Carr, Iversen. Referee: R Harris.

NOTT'M FOREST (1) 1 — **CHELSEA** (2) 3
Van Hooijdonk 39; 26,351 — Forssell 6; Goldbaek 25, 83

Nottingham Forest: D Beasant, M Jean, N Quashie (sub: H Porfirio 70min), A Rogers, S Chettle, S Stone, A Johnson (sub: S Gemmill 89), T Bonalair, J Darcheville (sub: N Shipperley 86), C Palmer, P van Hooijdonk.

Booked: Quashie, Palmer.

Chelsea: E De Goey, D Petrescu (sub: E Newton 45), C Babayaro, F Leboeuf, M Desailly, B Goldbaek, A Ferrer, B Lambourde, G Zola (sub: T A Flo 61), J Morris, M Forssell (sub: M Nicholls 85).

Booked: Morris. Referee: J Winter.

SOUTHAMPTON (2) 2 — **NEWCASTLE** (0) 1
Beattie 16; Dodd 43 (pen); 15,244 — Hamann 86

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, P Colleter, C Marsden, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, S Ripley (sub: W Bridge 46min), M Oakley, E Ostenstad, J Beattie (sub: S Bradley 75), H Kachloul (sub: D Hughes 84).

Booked: Lundekvam, Kachloul.

Newcastle United: S Given, L Charvet, D Domi, S Howey, N Dabizas, N Solano (sub: R Lee 45), D Hamann, T Ketsbaia, A Shearer, G Speed, G Brady.

Booked: Shearer, Domi, Speed, Howey. Referee: G Poll.

Yesterday

WIMBLEDON (0) 0 — **ASTON VILLA** (0) 0
15,582

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher (sub: A Kimble 26min), N Ardley, R Earle, A Roberts, J Euell, E Ekoku (sub: C Leaburn 88), M Gayle.

Booked: Perry.

Aston Villa: M Oakes, A Wright, G Southgate, S Watson, I Taylor, P Merson, J Joachim (sub: S Collymore 76), D Dublin, S Grayson, L Hendrie, R Scimeca.

Booked: Grayson.

Referee: P Alcock.

OVERSEAS

GERMAN LEAGUE: TSV 1860 Munich 4 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Bayer Leverkusen 1 SC Freiburg 1; Nuremburg 1 Werder Bremen 1; Hertha Berlin 3 Borussia Dortmund 0; MSV Duisburg 0 Bayern Munich 3; VfB Stuttgart 2 Schalke 04 1; VfL Wolfsburg 1 Hansa Rostock 1. Postponed: VfL Bochum v SV Hamburg.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	19	15	2	2	45	13	47
Bayer Leverkusen	19	10	7	2	41	19	37
TSV 1860 Munich	19	10	5	4	38	25	35
*Kaiserslautern	18	10	4	4	29	28	34
Hertha Berlin	19	10	2	7	29	19	32
Borussia Dortmund	19	8	5	6	28	21	29
VfL Wolfsburg	19	7	7	5	35	29	28
Werder Bremen	19	6	6	7	28	26	24
SV Hamburg	18	6	6	6	23	23	24
VfB Stuttgart	19	6	6	7	25	26	24
SC Freiburg	19	5	8	6	22	24	23
Schalke 04	19	5	6	8	21	31	21
VfL Bochum	18	5	4	9	22	33	19
MSV Duisburg	19	4	7	8	20	32	19
Hansa Rostock	19	3	8	8	27	35	17
Eintracht Frankfurt	19	4	5	10	22	33	17
Nuremburg	19	2	10	7	21	34	16
*Mönchengladbach	18	2	4	12	20	44	10

* Does not include last night's late match

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bologna 2 Empoli 0; Juventus 2 Vicenza 0; Lazio 1 Internazionale 0; AC Milan 1 Cagliari 0; Salernitana 1 Parma 2; Sampdoria 3 Piacenza 2; Udinese 4 Bari 0; Venezia 2 Perugia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	22	13	6	3	44	21	45
AC Milan	22	12	7	3	34	24	43
*Fiorentina	21	13	3	5	37	19	42
Parma	22	11	8	3	40	21	41
Udinese	22	10	6	6	31	28	36
Internazionale	22	10	4	8	43	30	34
Juventus	22	9	6	7	26	23	33
Bologna	22	8	8	6	28	20	32
*AS Roma	21	8	7	6	42	31	31
Bari	22	5	11	6	25	30	26
Cagliari	22	7	4	11	30	34	25
Venezia	22	6	7	9	21	30	25
Perugia	22	7	4	11	29	39	25
Vicenza	22	4	8	10	11	27	20
Sampdoria	22	4	8	10	21	40	20
Piacenza	22	4	7	11	27	37	19
Salernitana	22	5	4	13	22	38	19
Empoli	22	3	8	11	19	38	15

Empoli deducted 2 points.
* Does not include last night's late match

SPANISH LEAGUE: Extremadura 2 Real Betis 1; Racing Santander 2 Real Zaragoza 4; Real Madrid 0 Athletic Bilbao 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: AZ Alkmaar 2 RKC Waalwijk 1; Graafschap De Doetinchem 0 Twente Enschede 2; Utrecht 2 Heerenveen 2; Feyenoord 3 PSV Eindhoven 1; Fortuna Sittard 2 Cambuur Leeuwarden 0; Roda JC Kerkrade 1 Sparta Rotterdam 0; Vitesse Arnhem 2 MVV Maastricht 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	19	14	4	1	45	16	46
Vitesse Arnhem	21	13	4	4	41	25	43
Roda JC Kerkrade	20	11	4	5	36	24	37
Twente Enschede	23	10	6	7	33	31	36
Ajax	21	9	8	4	39	20	35
Heerenveen	21	9	8	4	34	26	35
PSV Eindhoven	21	9	7	5	49	37	34
AZ Alkmaar	21	8	10	3	33	27	34
Willem II Tilburg	21	9	4	8	37	37	31
Utrecht	21	8	5	8	38	37	29
NEC Nijmegen	22	7	7	8	31	38	28
Fortuna Sittard	22	6	6	10	26	35	24
MVV Maastricht	21	5	6	10	28	38	21
Cambuur Leeuwarden	20	5	6	9	22	36	21
De Graafschap	21	3	10	8	20	33	19
Sparta Rotterdam	21	4	3	14	22	41	15
NAC Breda	20	3	4	13	23	37	13
RKC Waalwijk	22	2	6	14	24	45	12

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Academica 1 Beira Mar 0; Sporting Braga 1 Boavista 2; Chaves 4 Farense 4; Salgueiros 0 União Leiria 0; Sporting Lisbon 2 Rio Ave 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	23	15	6	2	39	19	51
*FC Porto	21	15	4	2	50	17	49
*Benfica	22	14	4	4	47	15	46
Sporting Lisbon	22	12	7	3	42	18	43
União Leiria	23	10	6	7	24	17	36
*Estrela Amadora	22	9	7	6	25	24	34
Salgueiros	23	6	11	6	32	39	29
*Vitória Setubal	22	6	8	8	17	25	26
*CS Marítimo	22	6	7	9	25	26	25
*Guimarães	20	6	6	8	29	24	24
Farense	23	6	6	11	21	39	24
Beira Mar	23	4	11	8	20	30	23
Sporting Braga	22	5	8	9	27	40	23
Rio Ave	23	5	8	10	18	33	23
*Alverca	22	4	10	8	17	27	22
Chaves	23	5	7	11	28	42	22
*Campomaiorense	21	5	4	12	22	36	19
Academica	23	4	6	13	24	43	18

* Does not include last night's late matches

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Man Utd	27	9	4	1	33	14	6	5	2	28	14	54	+33
2 Chelsea	26	8	5	0	19	7	5	6	2	20	14	50	+18
3 Arsenal	26	8	5	0	21	4	5	5	3	13	8	49	+22
4 Aston Villa	26	8	2	3	24	17	4	6	3	13	10	44	+10
5 Leeds	26	8	3	2	21	6	3	6	4	18	19	42	+14
6 Liverpool	26	7	4	2	39	16	4	2	7	16	16	39	+17
7 Derby	26	5	5	3	13	12	4	5	4	12	12	37	+1
8 West Ham	26	7	3	3	18	19	3	4	6	11	19	37	-9
9 Wimbledon	25	7	5	1	18	11	2	4	6	11	24	36	-6
10 Newcastle	26	7	2	4	20	16	2	5	6	14	19	34	-1
11 Middlesbro	26	4	8	1	16	10	3	4	6	17	26	33	-3
12 Sheff Wed	25	5	3	4	13	7	4	2	7	18	17	32	+7
13 Tottenham	25	5	5	2	19	16	2	6	5	10	15	32	-2
14 Leicester	25	5	3	4	17	18	2	6	5	8	16	30	-9
15 Everton	26	3	7	3	8	6	3	2	8	11	22	27	-9
16 Charlton	26	4	4	5	18	13	2	4	7	13	24	26	-6
17 Blackburn	26	5	3	5	15	16	1	5	7	12	20	26	-9
18 Coventry	26	5	4	4	17	14	1	2	10	7	23	24	-13
19 Southamptn	25	5	2	6	20	22	1	3	8	5	26	23	-23
20 Nottm F	26	1	6	6	11	24	2	1	10	11	30	16	-32

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY (0) 0 — **GRIMSBY** (0) 0
16,343

BURY (0) 0 — **NORWICH** (1) 2
4,285 — Bellamy 29; Fleming 72
Sent off: D Bullock (Bury) 11

CREWE (0) 0 — **STOCKPORT** (1) 2
5,473 — Woodthorpe 45; Ellis 79

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 — **TRANMERE** (0) 0
11,411
Sent off: J Dyson (Huddersfield) 86

IPSWICH (2) 2 — **OXFORD UTD** (1) 1
Holland 6; Venus 8 (pen) — Remy 43; 16,920

PORT VALE (1) 1 — **CRYSTAL PALACE** (0) 0
Tankard 40 — 6,051

QPR (1) 1 — **WATFORD** (1) 2
Peacock 45; 14,918 — Wright 16; Smith 70
Sent off: D Maddix (QPR) 75

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 — **WOLVES** (1) 1
Johnston 10; Quinn 90 — Melville 23 (og); 41,268

SWINDON (3) 3 — **PORTSMOUTH** (1) 3
Hay 31, 40; Onuora 44; 10,230 — Claridge 44, 74; Peron 76

WEST BROM (1) 2 — **BRISTOL CITY** (0) 2
Hughes 32, 90; 16,490 — Akinbiyi 60, 85

Yesterday

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 — **BOLTON** (0) 0
26,051

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Sheffield U 2 Bradford 2.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 0 — **LINCOLN** (0) 1
4,215 — Miller 81

BRISTOL R (1) 1 — **LUTON** (0) 0
Tillson 26 — 6,361

FULHAM (1) 2 — **NOTTS COUNTY** (0) 1
Horsfield 36, 67; 11,909 — Owers 83

GILLINGHAM (1) 1 — **COLCHESTER** (0) 1
Asaba 22; 7,276 — Duguid 64
Sent off: C Asaba (Gillingham) 41; D Greene (Colchester) 41

MAN CITY (1) 2 — **MACCLESFIELD** (0) 0
Goater 14; Taylor 67 — 31,086

MILLWALL (1) 2 — **STOKE** (0) 0
Harris 39; Cahill 65 — 7,855
Sent off: B Bowry (Millwall) 4; R Sadlier (Millwall) 70

OLDHAM (0) 0 — **NORTHAMPTON** (1) 1
4,752 — Corazzin 10 (pen)

READING (0) 2 — **PRESTON** (0) 1
Caskey 55; Thorpe 90 (pen) — Basham 80; 10,937

WALSALL (1) 1 — **CHESTERFIELD** (1) 1
Rammell 45; 5,268 — Williams 11

WIGAN (0) 2 — **BOURNEMOUTH** (0) 1
Liddell 54; Barlow 79 — Robinson 90; 4,144

WREXHAM (1) 1 — **YORK** (0) 1
Thompson 13 (og); 2,980 — Pouton 57

WYCOMBE (0) 2 — **BURNLEY** (0) 0
Simpson 51; Scott 52 — 5,195
Sent off: L Johnrose (Burnley) 24; A Pickering (Burnley) 88

THIRD DIVISION

CARLISLE (0) 0 — **MANSFIELD** (0) 0
2,273

DARLINGTON (0) 1 — **PLYMOUTH** (1) 2
Dorner 75; 2,643 — Jean 32; Marshall 72

EXETER (0) 2 — **HARTLEPOOL** (1) 1
Flack 90; Cualey 90 — Ingram 23 (pen); 2,987

HULL (1) 1 — **BARNET** (1) 1
Whittle 12; 6,823 — Heald 4

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 2 — **CAMBRIDGE U** (0) 0
Griffiths 23; Ling 51 — 6,222
Sent off: A Duncan (Cambridge Utd) 45

PETERBOROUGH (1) 2 — **SHREWSBURY** (1) 2
Castle 3; Broughton 71; 4,608 — Evans 3; Kerrigan 67

ROTHERHAM (1) 2 — **BRENTFORD** (3) 4
Warne 32; Thompson 75; 3,899 — Mahon 10; Owusu 28, 40, 80

SCARBOROUGH (2) 2 — **SWANSEA** (1) 1
Tate 26; Roberts 32 — Smith 45; 1,512

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 — **ROCHDALE** (0) 1
3,749 — Bayliss 84

SOUTHEND (2) 3 — **BRIGHTON** (0) 0
Hunter 18, 24; Rapley 66 — 6,066

TORQUAY (0) 0 — **CHESTER** (1) 3
2,324 — Beckett 12, Alford 69; Cross 39

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Cardiff 1 Halifax 1.

SCOTLAND

SPL SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

DUNDEE UTD (1) 3 — **ABERDEEN** (0) 0
Olofsson 34; Dodds 48; Hannah 66 — 8,309

HEARTS (0) 0 — **ST JOHNSTONE** (0) 2
12,229 — Scott 59; Kane 63

RANGERS (2) 6 — **DUNDEE** (1) 1
Albertz 24 (pen), 38, 57; McCann 51, 71; Van Bronckhorst 88 — Adamczuk 28; 49,462

Yesterday

MOTHERWELL (1) 1 — **CELTIC** (2) 7
Brannan 26; 11,983 — Larsson 22 (pen), 65, 86, 87; Moravcik 30; Burley 74; Burchill 85
Sent off: J Spencer (Motherwell) 14

POSTPONED: Kilmarnock v Dunfermline (Pools Panel Verdict: HT No score draw. FT: Home win).

FIRST DIVISION

FALKIRK (0) 1 — **HIBERNIAN** (1) 2
Keith 52; 5,978 — Hartley 45; Den Bieman 67 (og)
Sent off: P Hartley (Hibernian) 53

GK MORTON (0) 3 — **HAMILTON** (0) 0
Wright 54, 90; Curran 73 — 1,914

RAITH (2) 2 — **AYR** (1) 4
Holmes 3, 8; 1,888 — Ferguson 11; Lyons 46, 88; Craig 52

STRANRAER (0) 0 — **CLYDEBANK** (2) 2
517 — Elliot 17; Anthony 35 (pen)

POSTPONED: Airdrie v St Mirren (Pools Panel Verdict: HT Score draw. FT: Home win).

SECOND DIVISION

ALLOA (1) 1 — **INVERNESS C** (1) 4
McKechnie 7; 595 — Shearer 14, 63; Wilson 81; Christie 88

ARBROATH (1) 1 — **STIRLING** (0) 0
C McGlashan 32 — 610
Sent off: C Jackson (Stirling) 89

CLYDE (0) 1 — **EAST FIFE** (0) 0
O'Brien 87 — 768

LIVINGSTON (4) 5 — **FORFAR** (0) 0
Robertson 5, 37 (pen); McCormick 7; King 18, 61 — 1,830

PARTICK (1) 1 — **QUEEN OF SOUTH** (2) 3
Dunn 38; 1,510 — Mallan 21, 71; Rowe 43

THIRD DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 0 — **QUEEN'S PARK** (0) 2
330 — Campbell 49 (og); Brown 71
Sent off: D Watt (Berwick) 89

BRECHIN (0) 0 — **STENHOUSEMUIR** (1) 2
265 — Miller 45, 74
Sent off: J Fisher (Stenhousemuir) 77

COWDENBEATH (1) 1 — **MONTROSE** (0) 0
Milne 28 — 234

POSTPONED: Dumbarton v Albion; Ross County v East Stirling.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 21: M Owen (Liverpool); D Yorke (Man Utd). 19: A Cole (Man Utd). 18: J Aloisi (Coventry, 17 for Portsmouth). 17: A Ward (Blackburn, 15 for Barnsley). 15: O G Solskjaer (Man Utd). 14: N Anelka (Arsenal); J F Hasselbaink (Leeds); R Fowler (Liverpool). 13: D Dublin (Aston Villa, 4 for Coventry); H Ricard (Middlesbrough); A Shearer (Newcastle). 12: A Cottee (Leicester); N Blake (Blackburn, 9 for Bolton).

FIRST DIVISION: 30: L Hughes (West Brom). 20: M Stewart (Huddersfield). L Mills (Bradford). 18: D Windass (Oxford Utd). 17: A Akinbiyi (Bristol City); I Onuora (Swindon); B Angell (Stockport); I Roberts (Norwich); N Quinn (Sunderland). 16: R Keane (Wolverhampton); C Bellamy (Norwich). 14: R Blake (Bradford).

SECOND DIVISION: 23: M Stein (Bournemouth). 18: R Cresswell (York); C Asaba (Gillingham, 1 for Reading). 17: A Payton (Burnley); A Rammell (Walsall). J Cureton (Bristol Rovers); S Barlow (Wigan). 16: K Nogan (Preston); J Roberts (Bristol Rovers); G Horsfield (Fulham, 8 for Halifax) 14: N Harris (Millwall); B Hayles (Fulham, 10 for Bristol Rovers).

THIRD DIVISION: 18: L Owusu (Brentford). 17: J Forrester (Scunthorpe). 15: M Butler (Cambridge Utd), S Partridge (Brentford, 15 for Torquay), S Flack (Exeter). 14: L Peacock (Mansfield), J Williams (Cardiff), M Gabbiadini (Darlington). 13: K Charlery (Barnet); K Nugent (Cardiff); T Benjamin (Cambridge Utd)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: 31: H Larsson (Celtic). 20: R Wallace (Rangers). 18: J Albertz (Rangers) 14: J Johansson (Rangers). 13: B Dodds (Dundee Utd, 3 for Aberdeen); E Jess (Aberdeen). 11: D Adams (Motherwell, 8 for Ross County). 10: J Hamilton (Hearts). 9: A Smith (Dunfermline) 8: P Wright (Kilmarnock): H Brattbakk (Celtic); O Coyle (Motherwell).

FIRST DIVISION: 16: G Hurst (Ayr). 15: M Keith (Falkirk). 14: A Walker (Ayr). 12: M Paatelainen (Hibernian); P McGinlay (Hibernian). 11: S Crawford (Hibernian). G Wales (Hamilton).

SECOND DIVISION: 19: A Bone (Stirling). 15: D Bingham (Livingston). 14: J Robertson (Livingston). 13: S McLean (Inverness Cal.). 12: S Convery (Clyde). R McCusker (Clyde); M Cameron (Alloa); W Irvine (Alloa).

THIRD DIVISION: 18: N Tarrant (Ross County). 14: P Flannery (Dumbarton) 13: S Ferguson (Ross County). 12: J Dickson (Brechin), S Sorbie (Brechin). 10: D Lorimer (Albion) 9: S Edgar (Queen's Park); P Forrester (Berwick).

Includes all competitions

Nationwide Football Conference

BARROW (0) 2 — **YEOVIL** (0) 0
Hayward 48; Dawson 57 — 1,202

FOREST GREEN (0) 0 — **DONCASTER** (0) 0
1,271

HAYES (2) 2 — **WOKING** (1) 2
Charles 29; Randall 33; 1,103 — Gridelet 19; Hay 52 (pen)

HEREFORD (0) 0 — **CHELTENHAM** (1) 2
3,460 — Freeman 16; Victory 84

KINGSTONIAN (1) 1 — **KETTERING** (0) 2
Pitcher 39; 1,068 — Williams 54; McNamara 65

LEEK (1) 1 — **STEVENAGE** (0) 1
McAuley 18; 697 — Pearson 84

MORECAMBE (0) 0 — **DOVER** (1) 4
650 — Budden 33 (pen); Brown 64; Hynes 71, 74
Sent off: P Burns (Morecambe) 32

RUSHDEN & D (0) 1 — **HEDNESFORD** (0) 0
Collins 90 — 3,123

SOUTHPORT (1) 2 — **FARNBOROUGH** (1) 2
Arnold 23, 57; 997 — West 39; Bailey 73

TELFORD (0) 0 — **KIDDERMINSTR** (0) 0
1,220

WELLING (0) 2 — **NORTHWICH** (1) 3
Dolby 51, 68 (pen); 500 — Cooke 35; Terry 52; Walters 78
Sent off: D Adams (Welling) 81

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kettering	32	10	3	4	25	12	8	4	3	22	12	61
Cheltenham	28	7	5	1	24	9	10	3	2	27	11	59
Rushden	27	7	2	3	25	12	7	6	2	20	10	50
Dover	30	6	6	3	20	13	7	3	5	24	19	48
Hayes	28	7	2	5	20	17	7	2	5	20	21	46
Yeovil	28	5	3	6	24	23	7	6	1	18	12	45
Stevenage	27	6	8	1	34	16	5	3	4	11	11	44
Northwich	29	7	2	5	18	14	5	5	5	17	19	43
Hednesford	28	7	5	2	20	14	3	7	4	13	14	42
Kingstonian	27	5	6	3	19	16	5	5	3	19	21	41
Hereford	30	5	3	6	13	14	5	4	7	20	20	37
Woking	27	5	3	5	14	15	5	3	6	16	16	38
Morecambe	31	6	5	5	25	24	4	1	10	21	39	36
Kidderminstr	29	7	3	6	22	15	2	5	6	14	16	35
Forest Green	25	5	2	4	15	13	3	6	5	19	18	32
Leek Town	28	5	4	4	20	20	3	2	10	12	21	30
Doncaster	29	4	3	6	15	18	3	6	7	17	22	30
Barrow	30	6	4	7	14	16	2	2	9	15	29	30
Southport	27	3	6	5	20	24	3	5	5	13	18	29
Telford	29	3	7	5	14	20	3	4	7	16	27	29
Farnborough	29	5	2	7	22	34	1	5	9	10	28	25
Welling	30	2	6	8	11	21	3	3	8	16	26	24

Roberto Baggio, left, of Internazionale, battles for the ball with Paolo Negro, of Lazio, in their Serie A match yesterday. Lazio won 1-0 to stay top. Photograph: Paolo Cocco/Reuters

Nationwide Football League

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Sunderland	32	13	2	1	37	8	7	7	2	28	14	69	(65)
2 Bolton	31	10	4	2	33	15	6	7	2	23	19	59	(56)
3 Bradford	32	11	3	2	36	14	6	4	6	21	20	58	(57)
4 Ipswich	32	10	1	5	21	9	7	6	3	22	11	58	(43)
5 Birmingham	32	8	6	2	21	11	7	3	6	25	18	54	(46)
6 Watford	33	8	7	2	23	16	6	4	6	26	27	53	(49)
7 Grimsby	31	9	4	2	22	10	5	3	8	12	21	49	(34)
8 Wolves	32	8	7	1	24	13	5	2	9	20	20	48	(44)
9 West Brom	33	9	2	5	33	23	4	6	7	23	29	47	(56)
10 Norwich	31	8	7	2	24	17	6	3	7	21	24	46	(45)
11 Sheff Utd	31	8	4	4	28	24	4	5	6	21	25	45	(49)
12 Huddersfld	32	9	6	1	29	16	3	3	10	14	34	45	(43)
13 Barnsley	32	5	7	4	25	19	4	6	6	14	19	40	(39)
14 Tranmere	32	5	5	6	22	22	3	10	3	19	22	39	(41)
15 Stockport	32	5	5	6	19	17	4	7	5	20	22	39	(39)
16 C Palace	32	7	8	1	32	19	2	2	12	11	35	37	(43)
17 Swindon	32	6	7	3	31	26	3	2	11	12	27	36	(43)
18 Portsmouth	32	7	4	5	24	18	1	7	8	18	32	35	(42)
19 QPR	32	5	6	5	19	16	3	3	10	16	28	33	(35)
20 Oxford Utd	32	6	4	6	22	23	2	4	10	12	31	32	(34)
21 Port Vale	32	7	1	8	15	23	2	3	11	18	33	31	(33)
22 Bury	32	7	4	5	19	19	0	6	10	9	27	31	(28)
23 Bristol City	32	4	7	5	24	28	1	6	9	18	32	28	(42)
24 Crewe	32	4	3	9	20	32	1	5	10	15	33	23	(35)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Fulham	29	12	2	1	29	9	7	3	4	14	13	62	(43)
2 Preston	31	8	4	3	32	17	9	4	3	24	15	59	(56)
3 Walsall	31	9	5	3	25	17	8	2	4	18	17	58	(43)
4 Gillingham	30	11	4	2	32	12	2	9	2	15	15	52	(47)
5 Man City	31	8	5	2	23	9	5	7	4	15	14	51	(38)
6 Bournemth	29	10	4	0	30	7	4	4	7	18	22	50	(48)
7 Stoke	29	8	3	3	21	11	7	0	8	16	19	48	(37)
8 Wigan	30	8	3	3	23	8	5	4	7	21	22	46	(44)
9 Millwall	32	6	7	3	23	16	6	3	7	13	21	46	(36)
10 Chesterfld	30	11	1	3	25	10	2	6	7	9	17	46	(34)
11 Reading	30	7	6	4	23	20	4	4	5	13	20	43	(36)
12 Blackpool	31	5	6	4	18	15	5	5	6	14	19	41	(32)
13 Luton	29	6	3	4	17	14	4	5	7	21	25	38	(38)
14 Bristol R	28	6	6	3	24	18	2	6	5	16	14	36	(40)
15 York	32	4	7	5	21	21	5	2	9	19	31	36	(40)
16 Colchester	31	5	5	5	15	21	3	7	6	19	24	36	(34)
17 Wrexham	30	6	4	6	16	20	3	4	7	14	25	35	(30)
18 Burnley	32	5	6	5	15	17	3	4	9	21	35	34	(36)
19 Oldham	31	5	2	8	16	20	4	4	8	14	21	33	(30)
20 Lincoln City	30	6	3	6	20	20	2	3	10	10	27	30	(30)
21 Northmptn	30	2	8	3	12	13	4	3	10	13	21	29	(25)
22 Wycombe	31	6	3	8	21	17	0	6	8	8	23	27	(29)
23 Notts Co	29	4	3	7	17	19	2	4	9	11	25	25	(28)
24 Macclesfld	30	3	4	7	10	16	2	5	9	11	23	24	(21)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
1 Cardiff	31	12	2	3	30	13	5	4	5	16	15	57	(46)
2 Camb Utd	30	9	3	3	23	16	7	3	5	26	18	54	(49)
3 Brentford	31	12	1	2	30	14	5	0	11	22	34	52	(52)
4 Scunthorpe	30	10	1	4	30	22	5	3	7	20	20	49	(50)
5 Mansfield	31	10	1	4	26	14	4	5	7	20	30	48	(46)
6 Halifax	31	7	7	2	28	20	5	4	6	16	15	47	(44)
7 L Orient	30	8	4	3	21	18	4	7	4	20	19	47	(41)
8 Rotherham	31	7	5	4	31	21	6	2	7	28	26	46	(59)
9 Brighton	32	7	1	7	21	22	7	3	7	20	22	46	(41)
10 Plymouth	30	8	3	3	20	10	5	4	7	16	17	46	(36)
11 Peterboro	32	8	3	6	32	26	5	3	7	20	18	45	(52)
12 Exeter	31	10	3	3	24	10	2	5	8	11	20	44	(35)
13 Swansea	29	6	6	1	20	12	5	4	7	16	21	43	(36)
14 Darlington	30	8	3	4	30	14	4	3	8	17	26	42	(47)
15 Rochdale	31	7	5	3	17	11	4	4	8	16	23	42	(33)
16 Chester	31	3	10	2	15	16	6	4	6	25	25	41	(40)
17 Shrewsbury	32	8	4	4	26	23	2	6	8	10	22	40	(36)
18 Southend	32	7	4	5	20	13	3	5	8	19	31	39	(39)
19 Barnet	32	7	3	6	23	26	3	4	9	18	30	37	(41)
20 Torquay	31	6	7	3	19	15	2	5	8	14	26	36	(33)
21 Carlisle	31	5	5	6	14	14	3	6	6	14	19	35	(28)
22 Hartlepool	32	5	4	7	27	26	4	2	10	16	30	33	(43)
23 Hull	32	5	3	9	18	23	3	3	9	14	28	30	(32)
24 Scarboro	31	5	2	8	20	27	3	1	12	12	30	27	(32)

SCOTLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Rangers	25	9	3	0	25	7	8	2	3	31	15	56	+34
2 Celtic	25	10	2	1	38	6	3	5	4	22	17	46	+37
3 Kilmarnock	24	7	4	1	19	6	4	4	4	12	9	41	+16
4 St Johnstn	25	5	5	2	19	16	5	4	4	12	17	39	-2
5 Motherwell	25	6	3	4	16	18	1	5	6	8	19	29	-13
6 Aberdeen	25	4	4	4	16	18	3	2	8	11	25	27	-16
7 Dundee	25	4	3	6	10	19	3	3	6	12	23	27	-20
8 Dundee Utd	25	2	7	3	11	11	4	1	8	15	18	26	-3
9 Hearts	25	6	1	6	17	17	0	5	7	5	19	24	-14
10 Dunfermline	24	2	6	4	11	17	0	7	5	7	20	19	-19

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Hibernian	27	12	1	1	36	10	8	4	1	27	16	65	+37
2 Ayr	26	7	2	4	33	16	7	1	5	17	16	45	+18
3 Falkirk	26	6	5	3	20	15	7	1	4	22	12	45	+15
4 Airdrie	25	4	2	7	13	22	9	3	1	21	8	44	+4
5 St Mirren	26	7	1	5	15	18	3	6	4	9	12	37	-6
6 G Morton	27	4	4	6	15	15	5	2	6	14	13	33	+1
7 Clydebank	25	3	4	3	10	10	5	5	5	16	19	33	-3
8 Raith	27	4	4	6	14	20	2	4	7	15	26	26	-17
9 Hamilton	27	2	5	6	11	18	3	4	7	16	28	24	-19
10 Stranraer	27	2	2	10	14	23	2	0	11	10	31	14	-30

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Livingston	26	10	4	0	24	7	8	3	1	26	16	61	+29
2 Inverness C	26	10	2	0	26	14	6	4	4	29	20	54	+22
3 Clyde	26	8	3	3	22	13	3	4	5	12	15	40	+6
4 Alloa	26	7	3	4	34	21	3	2	7	16	20	35	+9
5 Partick	26	6	2	6	14	15	4	2	6	11	14	34	-4
6 Stirling	26	5	0	7	17	21	5	4	5	20	25	34	-9
7 East Fife	26	4	2	6	15	22	5	2	7	17	22	31	-12
8 Arbroath	26	5	3	6	13	20	3	3	6	10	14	30	-11
9 Queen of S	26	3	6	3	13	13	3	1	10	14	22	25	-8
10 Forfar	26	2	3	7	18	24	2	3	9	14	30	18	-22

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Goal diff
1 Ross County	24	8	1	3	23	9	8	3	1	34	15	52	+33
2 Brechin	25	5	5	4	16	16	7	2	2	16	12	43	+4
3 Stenhsmuir	25	4	1	6	18	18	7	4	3	21	13	38	+8
4 Albion	24	5	1	5	17	23	6	2	5	17	21	36	-10
5 Berwick	26	5	3	6	20	21	3	8	1	14	11	35	+2
6 Dumbarton	24	3	4	5	14	15	6	3	3	19	15	34	+3
7 Queen's Pk	26	4	4	3	15	13	3	4	8	15	20	29	-3
8 East Stirling	25	3	7	3	18	15	3	3	6	16	18	28	+1
9 Montrose	25	4	4	4	20	18	2	1	10	11	33	23	-20
10 Cowdenbth	24	4	2	8	15	22	2	2	6	7	18	22	-18

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bamber Bridge 3 Frickley 2; Chorley 0 Blyth Spartans 2; Gateshead 3 Accrington Stanley 0; Guiseley 1 Stalybridge 1; Hyde 5 Bishop Auckland 0; Lancaster 1 Emley 1; Marine 1 Gainsborough 2; Spennymoor 0 Altrincham 2; Winsford 0 Whitby 2; Worksop 1 Colwyn Bay 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altrincham	28	16	7	5	50	22	55
Bamber Bridge	31	15	10	6	52	37	55
Gateshead	31	15	7	9	56	42	52
Worksop	29	15	6	8	41	32	51
Winsford Utd	31	12	11	8	45	36	47
Guiseley	25	14	3	8	43	30	45
Hyde Utd	29	12	8	9	45	30	44
Gainsborough	30	13	5	12	45	42	44
Whitby Town	27	11	10	6	56	45	43
Blyth Spartans	32	12	5	15	44	49	41
Emley	26	10	9	7	33	29	39
Marine	33	8	14	11	43	54	38
Lancaster	29	9	9	11	40	46	36
Leigh RMI	26	8	11	7	42	38	35
Frickley	27	8	11	8	38	42	35
Stalybridge	29	8	10	11	47	47	34
Bishop Auck	33	8	10	15	40	58	34
Runcorn	25	7	11	7	27	32	32
Spennymoor	32	8	7	17	41	60	31
Colwyn Bay	26	8	6	12	37	46	30
Chorley	31	5	11	15	35	55	26
Accrington S	30	5	5	20	26	60	20

FIRST DIVISION: Ashton 4 Alfreton 2; Bradford PA 3 Matlock Town 1; Congleton 1 Flixton 2; Great Harwood 0 Eastwood Town 2; Hucknall 6 Netherfield Kendal 3; Lincoln 1 Droylsden 1; Radcliffe 1 Gretna 3; Stocksbridge PS 0 Belper Town 0; Trafford 0 Burscough 1, Whitley Bay 0 Harrogate Town 2; Witton 4 Farsley Celtic 0.

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Atherstone 2 Burton 2; Bath 1 Nuneaton 3, Boston 4 Gresley 1; Cambridge City 0 Tamworth 1; Dorchester 3 Bromsgrove 0; Gloucester 2 Crawley 0; Hastings 0 Weymouth 1, King's Lynn 1 Grantham 1; Rothwell 4 Merthyr 0; Salisbury 1 Halesowen 2; Worcester 2 Ilkeston 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	31	21	6	4	69	24	69
Gloucester City	30	14	9	7	43	35	51
Boston Utd	30	11	13	6	51	33	46
Bath City	29	13	7	9	43	29	46
Salisbury	29	13	7	9	40	41	46
Ilkeston Tn	30	12	9	9	47	37	45
Crawley Town	27	13	6	8	41	36	45
Atherstone	28	10	11	7	38	31	41
Weymouth	29	11	8	10	42	39	41
Tamworth	28	13	2	13	44	43	41
Worcester City	28	12	5	11	35	36	41
Halesowen	30	10	7	13	40	41	37
Grantham	28	11	4	13	37	41	37
Hastings	27	9	8	10	24	25	35
Merthyr	30	10	5	15	38	50	35
Cambridge City	30	9	8	13	35	43	35
Burton Albion	28	10	4	14	34	41	34
Gresley Rovers	29	10	4	15	32	48	34
Rothwell Town	28	8	8	10	29	42	32
King's Lynn	27	8	6	13	34	38	30
Dorchester	28	7	9	12	36	43	30
Bromsgrove	30	6	4	20	28	58	22

MIDLAND DIVISION: Blakenall 1 Weston-super-Mare 1; Clevedon 2 Solihull Boro 0; Moor Green 3 RC Warwick 1; Newport AFC 1 Bedworth 0; Redditch 3 Bloxwich 2; Shepshed Dynamo 2 Bilston 1; Stafford 0 Hinckley 2; Stamford AFC 3 Stourbridge 0; Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Evesham 1. VS Rugby 2 Cinderford 3, Wisbech 1 Paget 1. Southern division: Andover 2 Fisher London 5; Ashford 3 Witney 1, Bashley 2 Corby 0; Dartford 1 Baldock 2; Erith and Belvedere 3 Raunds 1; Fleet 0 Sittingbourne 2; Folkestone Invicta 3 Cirencester 2; Havant and Waterlooville 1 Margate 0; Tonbridge Angels 1 Brackley 0; Yate 1 Chelmsford 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division. Bandon 1 Wolverhampton Casuals 0; Brierley Hill 1 Walsall Wood 2; Bustleholme 1 Westfields 0; Ettingshall 1 Lye 1; Gornal 1 Cradley 2; Kington 3 Malvern 0; Ludlow 4 Wolverhampton 0; Smethwick 1 Stafford 2; Star 3 Darlaston 2.

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Billericay 0 Basingstoke 0; Bishop's Stortford 3 Gravesend 1; Bromley 0 Aylesbury 1; Carshalton 1 Harrow 2; Chesham 0 Sutton 3; Dulwich 0 Enfield 1; Hampton 2 Purfleet 3; Hendon 1 Aldershot 1; Heybridge 2 Boreham Wood 0; Slough 1 St Albans 0; Walton and Hersham 0 Dagenham and Redbridge 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	26	17	5	4	46	19	56
Purfleet	30	16	4	10	54	38	52
St Albans	27	14	8	5	48	31	50
Sutton Utd	25	15	4	6	48	30	49
Enfield	27	13	6	8	47	31	45
Billericay Tn	29	12	9	8	38	30	45
Gravesend	25	13	3	9	35	28	42
Boreham Wood	29	10	11	8	44	45	41
Aldershot Tn	26	11	7	8	56	27	40
Dag & Red	26	11	7	8	48	37	40
Hendon	26	10	8	8	47	42	38
Slough	28	10	7	11	40	40	37
Basingstoke	25	10	6	9	39	32	36
Harrow Boro	28	10	6	12	42	44	36
Chesham	26	9	5	12	42	49	32
Dulwich	27	8	6	13	29	37	30
Walton & H	29	8	5	16	34	56	29
Carshalton	31	7	7	17	34	63	28
Bromley	28	7	6	15	40	51	27
Heybridge	27	7	6	14	27	54	27
Hampton	26	6	7	13	28	51	25
Bishop's S	27	5	7	15	36	65	22

FIRST DIVISION: Bognor Regis 4 Braintree 0; Chertsey 0 Oxford City 1; Croydon 2 Wealdstone 3; Grays 1 Molesey 0; Hitchin 2 Uxbridge 1; Leatherhead 2 Berkhamsted 0; Romford 1 Canvey Island 0; Staines 1 Maidenhead 1; Wembley 1 Worthing 2; Whyteleafe 3 Barton 4; Yeading 1 Leyton Pennant 1. Second division: Bedford Town 1 Abingdon Town 0; Bracknell 3 Banstead 0; Edgware 1 Hemel Hempstead 1; Harlow 1 Leighton 4; Hertford 0 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Hungerford 1 Northwood 1; Marlow 2 Barking 2; Witham 4 Chalfont St Peter 0; Wivenhoe 2 Windsor and Eton 3; Wokingham 2 Horsham 1. Third division: Aveley 2 Wingate and Finchley 3; Cheshunt 6 Camberley 2; Croydon 5 Ford 2; Dorking 0 Kingsbury 1; East Thurrock 0 Lewes 1; Egham 0 Tilbury 4; Epsom and Ewell 1 Corinthian-Casuals 2; Flackwell Heath 1 Clapton 1; Tring 0 Southall 2; Ware 4 Hornchurch 1.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division. Bournemouth 1 Wycombe 2; Brentford 3 Gillingham 0; Brighton 1 Reading 2; Bristol 4 Oxford Utd 0; Luton 2 Cambridge Utd 1; Southend Utd 1 Colchester Utd 2; Swindon 5 Portsmouth 1

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference. Port Vale 0 Walsall 3. North East Conference: Hartlepool 2 Scarborough 3. North West Conference. Carlisle 0 Wigan 3; Tranmere 4 Blackpool 2.

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Arsenal 1 Watford 0; Aston Villa 0 Man Utd 2; Barnsley 3 Derby 0; Blackburn 2 Man City 1; Bristol 2 Wimbledon 0; Charlton 1 Southampton 1. Everton 1 Crewe 1; Fulham 1 Crystal Palace 0; Leicester 4 Millwall 0; Liverpool 3 Bolton 1, Newcastle 1 Sheff Wed 2; Norwich 1 Ipswich 1, QPR 1 Chelsea 2; Sunderland 3 Middlesbrough 0. Under-17: Aston Villa 1 Man Utd 5; Barnsley 0 Derby 1; Blackburn 2 Man City 2; Bristol 0 Wimbledon 0; Charlton 0 Southampton 1; Crystal Palace 0 Fulham 0; Leicester 3 Millwall 0; Liverpool 4 QPR 0; Newcastle 1 Sheff Wed 0; Sunderland 2 Middlesbrough 0; Tottenham 0 West Ham 0; Watford 2 Arsenal 3. Postponed: Everton v Crewe

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St Michaels 0 Pelsall Villa 1; Chasetown 4 Barwell 0; Knypersley 3 Stourport 1, Pershore 1 Wednesfield 1, Rushall Olympic 3 Halesowen Harriers 3; Sandwell 1 Stratford 1; Shifnal T 3 Oldbury 2; Stapenhill 0 Bridgnorth 3, Willenhall 5 Kings Norton 1

LONDON OLD BOYS SENIOR CUP: Old Aloysians 0 Old Ignatians 1; Phoenix OB 2 Old Manorians 1

FA VASE

SIXTH ROUND: Bedlington Ter 1 Workington 0 aet; Taunton 3 Lymington & NMilton 1; Tiverton 4 Clitheroe 0; Woodbridge 0 Thame 0.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 3 Cobham 2; Bedfont 3 AFC Wallingford 1; Chipstead 2 Hartley Wintney 0; Cove 3 Farnham 4; Cranleigh 0 Chessington and Hook 2; Godalming and Guildford 0 Reading 1; Netherne 1 Feltham 3; Viking Sports 1 Ashford 4, Westfield 2 Sandhurst 2.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 1 Bootle 5; Cheadle 1 Ramsbottom 2; Mossley 4 Holker Old Boys 0; Newcastle Town 2 Nantwich 1; Rossendale 1 Atherton Collieries 0; Salford 1 Vauxhall G M 3; Skelmersdale 2 Maine Road 2; St Helens 0 Kidsgrove 3. Postponed: Prescot Cables v Glossop North End.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Consett 1 West Auckland 2; Crook 0 South Shields 0; Dunston Federation 0 Billingham Synthonia 1; Easington 0 Shildon 0; Guisborough 0 Jarrow Roofing 0; Marske 0 Tow Law 1; Morpeth 0 Chester-le-Street 3; Newcastle Blue Star 1 Billingham Town 2; Seaham Red Star 2 Penrith 1.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 0 Fairford 2; Burnham 1 Highworth 0; Carterton 4 Almondsbury 2; Cirencester Academy 1 Swindon Supermarine 0; EFC Cheltenham 1 Abingdon 2; Harrow Hill 0 Bicester 2; Shortwood 3 North Leigh 3; Tuffley 1 Wantage 1.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 4 Chelsyn Hay 4, Alveston 2 Massey Ferguson 2; Coleshill 1 Kenilworth 1; Dudley Sports 0 Bolehall Swifts 5; Feckenham 2 Handrahan Timbers 0; GPT (Coventry) 1 Coventry Sphinx 3; Kings Heath 4 Studley BKL 2; Meir KA 2 Continental Star 3. Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Southam 0 Highgate 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division. Ely 2 Halstead 2; Gorleston 4 Warboys 1; Great Yarmouth 1 Sudbury Wanderers 0; Lowestoft 1 Fakenham 1; Soham 0 Newmarket 2; Stowmarket 0 Bury Town 2; Sudbury Town 1 Felixstowe Port and Town 1; Wroxham 3 Watton 0. Postponed: Histon v Maldon.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division. Alc Newbury 1 Bournemouth 0; Totton 3 Gosport 1; Bemerton Heath 0 Eastleigh 4; Brockenhurst 4 East Cowes 0; Moneyfields 1 BAT 3; Portsmouth 1 Hamble ASSC 3; Whitchurch 1 Thatcham 1; Wimborne 0 Christchurch 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division. Buxton 2 Garforth 2; Eccleshill 3 Ossett Albion 6; Glasshoughton Welfare 2 Pontefract Cols 0; Hallam 1 Armthorpe Welfare 1; Liversedge 1 Denaby 1; Maltby MW 1 Arnold 2; Ossett Town 4 North Ferriby 0; Selby 1 Sheffield 2; Staveley MW 3 Thackley 3.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconsfield Sycob 1 St Margaretsbury 1; Brimsdown 0 Hillingdon 1; Brook House 1 Barkingside 0; Harpenden 1 Buckingham Athletic 1; Hoddesdon 3 Haringey 0; Islington St Mary's 1 Somersett Ambury 3, Milton Keynes 2 Royston 2; Potters Bar 3 Ruislip Manor 0; Toddington 0 London Colney 0; Waltham Abbey 5 New Bradwell St Peter 1; Welwyn Garden 2 Arlesey 3.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield OG 2 C Manning OB 2; Old Buckwellians 0 Old Vaughanians 3; Old Hamptonians 0 Old Meadonians 3; Old Salvatorians 0 Glyn OB 1. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians 2 Old Tiffinians 2; Old Reigatians 4 Old Dorkinians 2; Old Wilsonians 4 Old Suttonians 1; Shene OG 3 Latymer OB 1.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Hale End 2 Southgate County 2; Old Grammarians 2 St Marys College 1, Parkfield 3 Old Woodhouseians 2; Ulysses 0 City of London 1. Senior Cup: Mill Hill Village 0 Albanian 3.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bradfieldians 2 Old Carthusians 1; Old Chigwellians 3 Lancing 1; Old Reptonians 1 Old Brentwoods 1. First division: Aldenhamians 4 Old Cholmeleians 6; Harrovians 3 Wellingburians 2. Postponed: Witleians v Haberdashers; Wykehamists v Malvernians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Alleyn Old Boys 2 Bank Of England 1; Brentham 3 Old Finchleians 6; Broomfield 0 Ibis 0; Carshalton 1 Barclays Bank 2; East Barnet OG 1 Nat West Bank 1; Lensbury 3 Norsemen 3; Lloyds Bank 0 Old Actonians 1; Merton 3 Southgate Olympic 0; Midland Bank 3 Old Esthameians 3; Old Bromleians 2 Old Owens 2; Old Latymerians 1 Kew Association 1; Old Lyonians 0 South Bank 0; Old Parmiterians 0 Polytechnic 3; Old Stationers 0 Old Salesians 3; Old Westminster Ctz. 1 Cuaco 1; West Wickham 2 Crouch End Vampires 0; Winchmore Hill 1 Alexandra Park 2.

SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon 1 Great Wakering 4; Burnham Ramblers 1 Ilford 2; Concord 3 Eton Manor 2; East Ham 1 Stansted 2; Saffron Walden 1 Bowers 1; Sawbridgeworth 0 Brentwood 3; Southend Manor 1 Hullbridge Sports 0.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 0 Bridgwater 0; Bishop Sutton 5 Chippenham 0; Bridport 1 Bristol Manor Farm 1; Calne 0 Bideford 6; Elmore 1 Paulton 1; Keynsham 0 Barnstaple 2; Westbury 1 Odd Down 1; Yeovil TR 2 Brislington 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Broadbridge Heath 1 East Preston 6; Chichester 2 Langney Sports 2; Eastbourne Town 1 Pagham 1; Hassocks 3 Eastbourne 1; Horsham YMCA 5 Hailsham 2; Redhill 1 Portfield 2; Ringmer 0 Shoreham 2; Saltdean 1 Burgess Hill 1; Whitehawk 5 Selsey 0.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston 1 S and L Corby 0; Eynesbury 0 Buckingham 3; Ford Sports 3 Kempston 0; Holbeach 0 Wootton 2; Long Buckby 0 Blackstone 3; N Spencer 0 St Neots 1; Potton 0 Bourne 3; Spalding 2 Desborough 0; Wellingborough 0 Stotfold 0; Yaxley 0 Cogenhoe 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury 3 Chatham 3; Deal 5 Cray 0; Greenwich 0 Crockenhill 1, Hythe 2 Erith 0; Lordswood 1 Thamesmead 1; Ramsgate 1 Herne Bay 0; Sheppey 3 Slade Green 1, VCD 0 Beckenham 2; Whitstable 5 Faversham 1.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster 0 Croydon 1; Everton 0 Southampton Saints 1; Liverpool 5 Bradford 1.

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Leeds 2 Blyth Spartans Kestrels 3; Sheffield Wed 1 Arnold 0. Other Matches Postponed. Southern division: Ipswich 0 Wimbledon 3; Langford 0 Whitehawk 1. Other Matches Postponed.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry Town 2 Total Network Solutions 0; Caernarfon Town 2 Afan Lido 0; Connah's Quay 1 Inter Cable-Tel 2; Conwy 2 Cwmbran 4; Rhyl 1 Bangor City 2; Postponed: Holywell v Haverfordwest.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 6 Rothes 0; Buckie Thistle 2 Wick Academy 1; Elgin 1 Fraserburgh 0; Huntly 4 Nairn County 0; Keith 6 Fort William 0. Postponed: Clachnacuddin v Peterhead; Forres Mechanics v Cove.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Omagh Town 2 Newry 3. First division: Dungannon Swifts 3 Bangor 2.

BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth round: Ballymena 3 Ballyclare 0; Carrick 2 Ards 0; Cliftonville 2 Glentoran 1; Coleraine 2 Loughgall Utd 1; Distillery 5 Brantwood 0; Glenavon 3 Crusaders 0; Linfield 3 Chimney Corner 1.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps 2 Waterford 0; Sligo Rovers 2 Bohemians 1; Cork 0 Derry City 1, UCD 0 Shelbourne 1.

VERNONS LOTTERY FOOTBALL GAME

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES: There were seven score draws: Liverpool v West Ham; Swindon v Portsmouth; West Brom v Bristol City; Gillingham v Colchester; Walsall v Chesterfield; Wrexham v York; Peterborough v Shrewsbury. Payouts on seven, six and five score draws. This week's confirmed pay out for: Seven score draws: 6 winners each £15,097. Six score draws: 79 winners each £491. Five score draws: 1347 winners each £5.

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	1	3	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	3
1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	3	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is good: seven score draws and 14 no-score draws.

Full-time: no claims required — forecast is very good: eight score draws and four no-score draws.

Smith lends substance to Taylor's voice

Queens Park Rangers.....1
Watford..............................2

By Pat Gibson

GRAHAM TAYLOR found his voice again on Saturday night after the latest youngster to roll off the Watford production line had made an immediate impact to put his side back on course for a place in the play-offs for promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Taylor has been unusually quiet lately, silenced by a throat infection that put him in intensive care just before Christmas, a more recent operation to remove his tonsils and his steadfast refusal to comment on the shenanigans surrounding his old job as England manager.

He was in full flow once more, however, as he talked about the winning goal scored by Tommy Smith, 18, from Hemel Hempstead, within seconds of his arrival as a 68th-minute substitute, even though he did not actually see it himself.

Taylor had excused himself to clear his throat in the dressing-room and only heard the roar from the Watford supporters as Smith intercepted a poor Queens Park Rangers clearance to set up a move down the right and was then on hand to steer Wright's cross just inside the far post.


Taylor: youth policy vital

Whether Smith can do that kind of thing on a regular basis remains to be seen but Taylor will give him every chance. "We had six players from our youth policy out there today," he said, "and that is how it has got to be at Watford, even if we do surprise everybody by getting into the Premiership."

Warming to his theme, he explained: "If Watford supporters think that this is a club that can spend eight, nine or ten million pounds to improve their status, they are getting above their station. They are not that type of club.

"Even if we had £50 million to spend, we could not buy the best players because they are not going to come to Watford anyway. They are going to go to the big clubs, so the whole business of youth development is of vital importance."

Watford had taken the lead in the 16th minute when a long clearance from Chamberlain skimmed off Maddix's head and Wright strode through to score with a superb volley. But QPR got back into the game through a debatable penalty on the stroke of half-time, when the referee appeared to be the only person in the ground who had spotted that Bazeley had handled the ball in the area.

Peacock scored at his second attempt after Chamberlain had blocked his initial shot, only for Smith to push QPR back into the relegation zone of the Nationwide League first division. To compound their problems, they had Maddix sent off in the 74th minute when the referee, whose inconsistency had been causing him problems all afternoon, showed him his second yellow card.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, K Ready, S Morrow (sub: C Plummer, 45min), D Maddix — P Murray, M Rose, G Peacock, K Rowland (sub: L Jeanne, 70) — I Dowie, K Gallen.

WATFORD (4-3-3): A Chamberlain — D Bazeley, S Palmer, R Page, P Robinson — R Johnson, A Hazan (sub: T Smith, 68), C Easton — N Wright, A Smart, P Kennedy.

Referee: A D'Urso

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: BOLTON SECURE POINT TO MOVE INTO SECOND PLACE


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Taylor, centre, the Bolton Wanderers forward, gets in front of the Birmingham City defence and heads towards goal

Birmingham fail to cash in on manager's bequest

Birmingham City..................0
Bolton Wanderers.................0

By Russell Kempson

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago, almost to the day, a fresh-faced Trevor Francis scored all four goals in a 4-0 victory against Bolton Wanderers. It took the teenager's tally to ten goals in as many games, the most dramatic of starts to a career that went on to embrace, among others, Nottingham Forest, Sampdoria, Rangers and England.

How the Birmingham City side that he now manages could have done with the same marksmanship at St Andrew's yesterday, when a goalless draw against Bolton in the Nationwide League first division could have been turned into a win, had they accepted just one of their many opportunities.

Instead, Birmingham had to settle for a point, another rung up the ladder to fifth place and confirmation that their hopes of taking part in the play-offs are justified. Bolton, who edged into second place behind Sunderland and stretched their unbeaten league run to 15 matches, also missed their share of chances in a game that petered out into stalemate after a lively opening.

Francis barely mentioned the poor finishing, preferring to dwell on Birmingham's sound defensive work against Bolton's experienced strike force. "Holdsworth and Taylor are wily old foxes and you have to concentrate against them," Francis said. "We did that, we never really let them get away, and we defended very well.

"I thought we were the better side over the 90 minutes. We were mostly the aggressors, and Bolton never really got a look-in in the second half."

Francis tipped Bolton for automatic promotion at the start of the season and he saw no reason to change his opinion after meeting them at close quarters. "I still think they'll go up with Sunderland," he said. "They're a very good side." He may regret, though, that Birmingham did not close the five-point gap between the teams.

The afternoon had begun colourfully, with the opening of the new Railway Stand — an impressive 8,000-seat construction that cost £4.5 million. Jasper Carrott, Birmingham's most famous fan, performed the ceremonial duties dressed in collar, tie, jacket, tracksuit bottoms and boots.

"Where did you get the boots from?" he was asked. "I borrowed them from Stan Collymore," he replied. "There's not a mark on them." He then succeeded with five or his six shots into the goal in front of the new stand. It was the last time anyone found the net.

Bolton were the first to squander, when Johansen thumped his effort against the crossbar. Birmingham then took over. Ndlovu headed over. Jaaskelainen fumbled Hughes' fierce drive, Elliott blocked another attempt from Hughes. Jaaskelainen shaved from Furlong, and Sellars nodded Rowett's goalbound header off the line.

Bolton were wasteful, too, with Sellars heading over from Whitlow's cross, which had been deflected by Bass's possibly illegal use of a hand, and Holdsworth seeing his header guided to safety by Charlton.

In the second half, anticlimax set in. Bolton appeared happy to secure the draw and the home fans among Birmingham's biggest crowd of the season, 26,051, grew rapidly frustrated. What Francis would have given for a repeat of 1971.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Bass, G Rowett, D Purse, S Charlton — B Hughes, M O'Connor, G Hyde (sub: S Robinson, 82min), M Grainger — P Ndlovu (sub: N Forster, 82), P Furlong (sub: D Adebola, 87).

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J Jaaskelainen — N Cox, M Fish, R Elliott, M Whitlow — M Johansen, C Jensen (sub: R Gardner, 76), P Frandsen, S Sellars — D Holdsworth (sub: B Hansen, 76), R Taylor.

Referee: M Pierce

Sunderland display the killer instinct

Sunderland..............2
Wolverhampton W 1

By Martin Woods

BROKEN hearts and Sunderland Football Club are no strangers. Losing that dramatic penalty shoot-out to Charlton Athletic at Wembley last June in the Nationwide League first division play-offs final initiated a team and a community's melancholic retreat back home to Wearside.

Slowly but surely, though, that memory is being erased and Peter Reid's men, harder of heart and scornful of sentiment, have shown themselves to be partial to dishing out heartbreak to any team bold enough to challenge their credentials as the division's masters.

Sunderland, you see, can now crush opponents at the death. Wolverhampton Wanderers were the latest victims. Unbeaten in their past six games, they fully deserved a point on Saturday, but then, after 89 minutes, Niall Quinn, that gangling contradiction of finesse and elbow grease, arrived to administer the *coup de grâce*.

Lee Clark, faced with a wall of defenders, played the ball wide to Nicky Summerbee on the right wing. His cross reached Allan Johnston, whose shot was parried by Stowell only as far as Quinn, who fired home from six yards. The crowd, depleted by departing fans persuaded that the game was a stalemate, celebrated with gusto.


Quinn: late winner

The previous Saturday, a penalty by Kevin Phillips in the 89th minute gave Sunderland a 1-0 victory over Bristol City. "We've got goals at the death on that many occasions, it's down to the character of the players and their fitness," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said.

Yet, while he was justifiably proud of his charges, Colin Lee, his opposite number, could consider only the injustice of it all, a sense heightened by two goals that were disallowed by Phil Richards, the referee. The first, after 60 minutes, had the greater claim to legitimacy. Richards ignored Haavard Flo's forearm challenge on Andy Melville as he headed the ball into the Sunderland box, where Keane rose with Michael Gray on the goalline and headed the ball into the net. Richards penalised Keane, no goal.

Five minutes later, Keane cheekily controlled the ball with his hand before shooting past Sorensen, but Richards was well placed to detect the infringement.

Sunderland had taken the lead after ten minutes, when Quinn, intercepting a Wolves clearance, headed the ball into the path of Johnston. The Scottish winger controlled it before shooting through Stowell's legs from ten yards.

Wolves' equaliser 13 minutes later owed much to the nervousness that can pervade the home side's play at the Stadium of Light. Osborn played a ball from the centre circle up towards Keane. The retreating Melville, committed to a back header by the time that Sorensen in the Sunderland goal began his sprint forward, headed into his own net.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, T Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark, K Ball, A Johnston — N Quinn, K Phillips.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — K Muscat, K Curle, D Richards, M Atkins — N Emblen, S Sedgley, S Osborn, P Simpson — H Flo, R Keane.

Referee: P Richards

Preston's ambition dented by Reading

Reading..............................2
Preston North End.............1

By Russell Kempson

TWO studmarks on the door of the dressing-room for the match officials — David Crick, the referee, and Messrs Bone and Parish, his assistants — indicated that it had not been a good day for Preston North End. The marks were at kung fu-kick height and possibly of disabling intensity had anyone left the room at the wrong time. They had not come there by accident.

Little had gone right for Preston. They arrived in buoyant mood at the Madejski Stadium on Saturday as leaders of the Nationwide League second division; they had collected 31 points on their travels and lost only twice. They departed angry and dismayed, the victims of a hotly disputed 89th-minute penalty tucked away by Tony Thorpe, the Reading striker. Mr Crick was not their favourite person.

In between, and despite the early losses of Parkinson and McKenna because of injury, Preston had dominated a tepid encounter that warmed up only as the afternoon grew colder. Three times they struck the woodwork and they also wasted a 52nd-minute penalty, with the score at 0-0, after Howie had felled Basham. Howie swiftly atoned by saving Nogan's weak spot kick. Reading went ahead three minutes later, when Caskey curled in a delightful 20-yard free kick, and although Preston equalised with ten minutes remaining, through Basham's volley, Crick deemed that Gregan's challenge on Caskey was "reckless". With Caskey, the regular penalty-taker, still groggy, Thorpe assumed the responsibility with panache.

"I'm going to have to have a look at it," David Moyes, the Preston manager, said as he clutched a video of the match. "In the past, I've been man enough to ring up the referee and apologise if I'm wrong."

Gregan's tackle, indeed, seemed reckless and humble pie might be on the menu. Moyes, 35, was shortlisted for the assistant's job to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United before Steve McClaren, of Derby County, got the nod.

The dents-in-the-door episode was dealt with adeptly. Moyes gave the briefest of smiles and quickly changed the topic. Should Ferguson again have to search for a new No 2, perhaps he need only consult his files.

READING (5-3-2): S Howie — G Murty, L Primus, J Polston, S Gray, B Glasgow — G Brebner, D Caskey, P Parkinson — P Brayson (sub: J McIntyre, 72min), A Thorpe (sub: M Sarr, 90).

PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): D Lucas — G Parkinson (sub: J Darby, 22), R Kidd, M Jackson, D Ludden (sub: C Murdock, 90) — L Cartwright, S Gregan, M Rankine, P McKenna (sub: J Harris, 37) — K Nogan, S Basham.

Referee: D Crick

Randall enjoys a fitting outcome

Walsall...................................1
Chesterfield...........................1

By A Correspondent

ONE goal, one point and no injuries — during what could be a defining week in Chesterfield's season the last statistic will be the most significant. Resources and sinews are stretched to the limit, a fact confirmed by Kevin Randall, the Chesterfield assistant manager.

As the Derbyshire mining-town club's third-highest goalscorer, Randall recently made his 750th appearance for Chesterfield in his capacity as player, coach or manager. With Manchester City, close rivals on form but distant relatives in status, to play this Saturday, he realises that his team's resolve faces a stern test over the coming weeks.

"It is a case of keeping our key players fit and hoping for a few lucky breaks," he said. "We may look at the likes of Manchester City, Fulham and Stoke with envy but that won't do us any good.

"We have a great spirit in the dressing-room. All right, we may not be the best team in the world, but people know when they play us, they are in for a game."

Ray Graydon, the Walsall manager, would not argue with that. When the Boys from the Black Country meet the Boys from the Blackstuff, only fools and partisans would expect football as performed by the Boys from Brazil.

The purist cause was not helped by an awful pitch at the Bescot Stadium, upon which even the very best would have struggled. Graydon said that he had had to change tactics, with the robust frame of Andy Rammell, the former Barnsley striker, the target of many a forward thrust.

That both goals came from headers was an indication of the nature of the game. Mark Williams, the Chesterfield centre back, scored from close range after an 11th-minute corner while Rammell did his duty in first-half injury time, swooping head first to add the finish to Darko Mavrak's fine run and cross from the left flank. Billy Mercer, the Chesterfield captain, produced two athletic second-half saves to ensure that there were no more goals after the break.

Walsall, on reflection, will view the long-term absence of Andy Watson, their centre forward, substituted after half an hour with a torn groin, more costly than the loss of two points at home.

WALSALL (4-4-2): J Walker — C Marsh, A Viveash, I Roper, N Pointon — D Wrack, B Larusson, D Keates, D Mavrak — A Watson (sub: J Bresset, 30min), A Rammell.

CHESTERFIELD (4-4-2): B Mercer — C Perkins, M Williams, I Breckin, S Nicholson — T Curtis, M Ebdon, P Holland, C Beaumont — J Howard, D Reeves.

Referee: P Danson.

Hull showing spirit to preserve status

Hull City..............................1
Barnet..................................1

By Mel Webb

A MOST extraordinary thing has happened to Hull City. At the turn of the year they were plumb last in the Nationwide League and when they managed to scrape a 1-0 victory over Rotherham United on January 9 it was regarded as probably nothing more than an aberrant upward blip.

They have played seven games since, and have been beaten only once: quite extraordinary. With a population, including its suburbs, approaching 500,000, Hull is the largest city in Europe never to have won a significant honour, the largest never to have had a team in a European competition. When Mark Hateley was dismissed as manager in November, it looked likely to become the largest city in Europe without a club in a mainstream league.

Its love affair with the club owner, David Lloyd, the Great Britain Davis Cup tennis captain, had ended in sour words and recriminations but salvation in the boardroom came in the shape of a consortium headed by Tom Belton, a local farmer, and on the field with the appointment of the long-serving Warren Joyce as player-manager.

Since then, Joyce has galvanised the team, brought in a whole raft of new players and fostered a remarkable team spirit among his disparate crew. This draw with Barnet was probably the worst performance of the eight-game run, including a 3-0 defeat away to Rochdale, but it still brought out the team's fighting qualities.

The point kept Hull three points ahead of Scarborough, but having played one game more. Their continued presence in the Football League is still anything but assured, but Joyce is clearly a man on a mission.

Heald, the Barnet centre half, scored with a 15-yard shot in the fourth minute but 12 minutes later Joyce's swirling free kick was turned into the net from point-blank range by Whittle. The rest, frankly, was not much to write home about. But then, this was the third division and the foot of it, at that. If Hull survive, it will be with effort, not high art.

HULL CITY (3-5-2): A Oakes — J Whittle, M Edwards, J Whitney — S Swales, D D'Auria, G Brabin, W Joyce, G Williams — C Alcide, D Brown (sub: B Morley, 73min).

BARNET (3-5-2): L Harrison — G Heald, M Basham, M Arber — S Stockley, S Searle, P Wilson, J Doolan, R Sawyers — K Charlery, M King.

Referee: T Heilbron

Motherwell overwhelmed by champions after dismissal of Spencer

Celtic keep slender title hopes ticking

Motherwell........................1
Celtic.................................7

BY PHIL GORDON

IF CELTIC'S pursuit of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League is in vain, then the only people in danger of being left breathless are their supporters. The champions, who have closed the gap to ten points, outdid their Old Firm rivals in goalscoring volume, as Henrik Larsson scored four times at Fir Park when Motherwell, reduced to ten men for much of the game, simply wilted last night.

Incredibly, three of the goals came in the last eight minutes. Mark Burchill, a substitute, scored with his first touch, then Larsson plunged in the knife with a glorious shot and then a header, after 85 and 87 minutes, to take his tally for the match to four and for the season to 31 goals.

All the attention prior to this encounter had been monopolised by Andy Goram, who had been dropped by Motherwell in a bid to defuse the sensitive reunion between the former Rangers goalkeeper and Celtic's supporters after allegations of links with loyalist paramilitary sympathisers.

The tight security around Fir Park indicated that the police did not treat lightly the possibility of passions becoming inflamed. The game, however, would soon ignite all on its own, though not before Motherwell carved out a real chance to take the lead in the eleventh minute.

A clever diagonal ball from Ged Brannan was misjudged by Johan Mjallby, the Celtic central defender. Lee McCulloch pounced on Mjallby's error but his firm right-foot shot was blocked by the goalkeeper, Jonathan Gould.

Two minutes later an ugly skirmish involving John Spencer, the Motherwell forward, and Jackie McNamara saw Spencer, who was the instigator, sent off, while the Celtic player was cautioned. In the sour aftermath Brannan and McCulloch were fortunate not to be punished for brutal tackles.

Motherwell's palpable resentment found new depths in the 21st minute when Celtic were awarded a penalty, from which Henrik Larsson scored his 28th goal of the season.

However, they had little reason to nurse a grievance because Michel Doesburg had clearly tripped Stéphane Mahe, the Celtic left back, as he pursued Paul Lambert's sublime chip into the area.

Steve Woods, Goram's replacement in the Motherwell goal, opted to stand his ground as Larsson's recent quartet of penalties have all been driven down the middle, but this time the Sweden player rolled his kick just inside the left-hand post.

Motherwell are imbued with real spirit, though, and equalised within four minutes. Tom Boyd, the Celtic captain, fouled Simo Valakari outside the penalty area and Brannan curled the free kick around the wall with his right foot and past Gould.

Brannan, however, provided Moravcik with the stage to eclipse that goal in the 29th minute by bringing down Larsson, a foul for which he was booked. Moravcik's precise free kick arced over the wall and went in off the post to restore Celtic's lead.

The physical content of the contest remained undiluted by the passage of goalscoring, and Mjallby and Boyd were added to the toll of cautions on either side of half-time.

True, the action was as raw as the conditions, but the incessant pace of play ensured everyone remained oblivious to the flurries of snow. Brattbakk ought to have delivered a shot on target in the 61st minute, but the Norway player shot wastefully over the bar.

As if outraged at such profligacy, Larsson showed his Scandinavian colleague how to finish just four minutes later with the ruthless instinct of a predator. Riseth robbed Pat Nevin, Motherwell's substitute, and found Brattbakk, who wisely transferred the ball to Larsson for the forward to wriggle past three tackles and thrash a low, right-foot shot into the corner of the net.

Brattbakk then conspired to contribute the miss of this, or any other, season before Craig Burley, who had replaced Moravcik just minutes earlier, stretched Celtic's margin further in the 74th minute.

McNamara and Larsson linked well on the right, allowing the latter to roll a pass into Burley's path and the Scotland midfield player, who has not played since last October, drove a low shot under Woods's body.

MOTHERWELL (3-5-2): S Woods — S Craigen (sub: P Nevin, 30min), J McGowan, S Teale — M Doesburg, G Brannan, S Valakari, J Spencer, E May (sub: I Ross, 69) — O Coyle (sub: D Adams, 63), L McCulloch.
CELTIC (4-4-2): J Gould — T Boyd, V Riseth, J Mjallby, S Mahe (sub: T McKinlay, 78), — J McNamara, P Lambert, L Moravcik (sub. C Burley, 70), R Blinker — H Brattbakk (sub: M Burchill, 82), H Larsson.
Referee: K Clark.

IAN STEWART


Moravcik, scorer of the second Celtic goal, tries to keep his balance as McCulloch challenges him from behind

Young stars owed debt of protection

BY ROB HUGHES

THE Fifa emergency committee, meeting in Zurich this morning, should have a higher priority than whether to impose its authority over the Arsenal-Sheffield United rematch at the eleventh hour. England and Ireland, and 14 other nations, urgently need the seven men of Fifa, the world governing body, to call off the world under-20 championship in Nigeria, from April 4 to 24.

The threat to life there is so grave that players have been told to have nine inoculations and to bring their own blood plasma to avoid HIV. They have been assured that, in the event of a blood injury, helicopters will stand by to whisk them out of the country.

Leeds United stated on Saturday that none of their players will travel to Nigeria. "It has been taken out of my hands," David O'Leary, the manager, said. "It's not a football decision and the board has decided not to release any of our players. If Fifa say we can't use them here while the tournament is on, we're not worried; the welfare of those players has to be our first concern."

'The welfare of those five players has to be our first concern'
— David O'Leary

Leeds expected five of their starlets — including Alan Smith and Jonathon Woodgate — to be called up by England and Ireland. They are the first club publicly to refuse, but among others, West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur and Wolverhampton Wanderers have to weigh up their duty to the players and to their parents, and duty to Fifa.

British nationals are warned by the Foreign Office of the risks of kidnap, crime and even of travel aboard poorly maintained aircraft in Nigeria. It is not just a matter of protecting the Leeds five, or Joe Cole, Luke Young or Robbie Keane from exposure to disease, but a fundamental question of risk to young players.

Africa matters to football. But in sport, health is paramount, and Fifa ought to have heeded this warning when, four years ago, it was obliged to remove the world youth championship from Nigeria because of political instability and conflicting advice on meningitis and cholera.

That withdrawal exposed Fifa to allegations from political and sporting organisations that it had allowed Nigeria to invest $100 million (about £60 million) on infrastructure without delivering the tournament.

These claims will be repeated if the risk of playing is again cause to deprive Nigeria of staging the event. But South Africa, bidding to stage the 2006 World Cup, could be damaged either way and Fifa, before it offers guarantees to apprentice players, might recall João Havelange, the president in 1995, having to concede: "I do not want one young person suffering any kind of disease on my conscience."

Inter failings give Ferguson encouragement

OVERSEAS VIEW

By Rob Hughes

EITHER the giants of Europe are posers, saving all for the European Cup, or the chances of Manchester United becoming champions of the Continent are improving week by week. Certainly nothing that happened this weekend discourages optimism.

Internazionale, who visit Old Trafford in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final on March 3, were again in impoverished form away from home when they succumbed 1-0 to Lazio, the Serie A leaders, in Rome yesterday. Inter have now failed to score a solitary goal in free play away from the San Siro since the turn of the year, they have been beaten in four out of five away games, and though they keep insisting that Ronaldo, their Brazilian, is on course to be fit against United, he again overruled the doctors and remained a spectator as Inter went down in the Olimpico to a 38th-minute goal from Sertio Conceicao, Lazio's Portuguese midfield player.

It was a goal full of inspiration for Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. Inter do not defend well on the flanks, and sure enough, Nedved was given acres of room to cross from the left, Christian Vieri outjumped Fabio Galante, and although his header was saved, he returned the ball into the goalmouth where Conceicao scored.

Before that goal, Inter had been patient, full of guile and content to frustrate their opponents, with Guiseppe Bergomi, their 35-year-old sweeper, in apparent command. After it, of course, Inter had to come out and attack, but it was not until the last, frantic five minutes that they had a real threat on goal when Roberto Baggio, still mercurial at 32, took a free kick from just outside the area, curled the ball over the top of the defensive wall, but alas for him, struck the crossbar. Then, in the 90th minute, Baggio was denied again, this time by a splendid save. He comes with the warning writ large, United beware.

Defeat left Inter 11 points adrift of Lazio in the championship, and behind the reviving AC Milan as well. Inter are between coaches, waiting for Marcelo Lippi who, since he has now departed Juventus, could be invited to step in before the Old Trafford contest.

Juventus, without him, scored twice against Vicenza to register a second consecutive win under Carlo Ancelotti, a warning for Olympiakos Piraeus, their European Cup quarter-final opponents.

Bayern Munich eased to a 3-0 victory away to MSV Duisburg as German football returned after the longest winter break in Europe. Goals from Jancker, Effenberg and Helmer gave Bayern a comfortable passage and extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to ten points.They are clear favourites to beat Kaiserslautern in their all-German European Cup clash.

That leaves possibly the most intriguing European Cup quarter-final pairing, Dynamo Kiev, who are still in winter hibernation, against Real Madrid, the champions.

Woe is Real Madrid. A week ago they surrendered in front of 98,000 people in Barcelona and, Lorenzo Sanz, the voluble Madrid president, denied that he would be sacking Guus Hiddink, the club's coach.

A week later, a home defeat in front of 70,000 at the Bernabéu, and President Sanz is singing a different tune. He watched Santi Ezquerro score from 20 yards for Athletic Bilbao, heard the crowd baying their displeasure, and said: "We can't carry on like this. The supporters want solutions and so do we."

Not far from the stadium where he built Real Madrid's European-championship winning side, and then left because of his deteriorating relationship with Sanz, Fabio Capello, the Italian coach, was speaking at the Spanish National Institute of Sport, where he admitted that a second spell at the Bernabéu might be attractive to him.

I wonder how Capello rates Steve McManaman, who last week signed a £14 million five-year contract to play in the white of Real Madrid from this summer?

Old rivals hope for favourable draw

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

FOR the second year running, Tiverton Town and Taunton Town, arch rivals from the Screwfix Direct League, go into the semi-final draw of the FA Carlsberg Vase desperately hoping to be kept apart when the names are drawn out of the bag this evening.

Last year, the sides got their wish — only for Tow Law to spoil the script of a West Country day out at Wembley when they beat Taunton over the two-legged semi-final. Tiverton went on to beat Tow Law 1-0 in the final.

The holders crushed Clitheroe 4-0, with a burst of goals in the second half by Phil Everett, who scored twice, Pete Varley, the match-winner at Wembley, and Kevin Nancekivell. Taunton were equally ruthless, once they had overcome the shock of falling behind to an early strike by Phil Stone, of Lymington and New Milton. Tony Lynch and Ellis Laight, their prolific strikers, were on target, with Martin Parker, the midfield player, scoring in between.

The other semi-finalists were taken to extra time. Andy Bowes, of Bedlington Terriers, saw off Workington with the only goal of the tie, four minutes from the end of the additional period. Thame United, of the Ryman League, ended the hopes of Woodbridge Town, the Jewson Eastern Counties League side, who had held them to 0-0 in 90 minutes, when Louis Herbert, from the penalty spot, and Jefferson Louis scored.

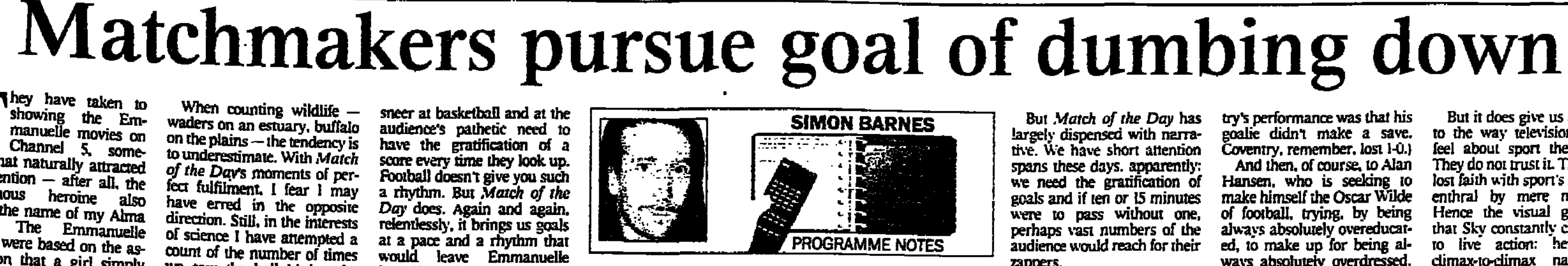
The return of Darren Collins after a lengthy absence through injury has helped to revive Rushden and Diamonds' chase for the Nationwide Conference title. Collins clinched a 1-0 win at Welling United in midweek and did the trick again when Diamonds beat Hednesford Town at Nene Park. He left it late, though — his decisive intervention did not arrive until injury time.

It means that Rushden are 11 points behind Kettering Town, the leaders — who avenged their recent FA Umbro Trophy defeat by winning 2-1 at Kingstonian — with five matches in hand. Cheltenham Town remain in the best position, two points behind with four matches in hand, after beating Hereford United 2-0 at Edgar Street.

Yeovil Town's season-long unbeaten run away from home came to an end at Barrow, the club in receivership, who gained a welcome shaft of light amid their gloom with a 2-0 victory.

Aylesbury United, having gained the go-ahead to make ground improvements to meet Conference requirements, forged ahead in the Ryman League premier division with a 1-0 win away to Bromley.

Matchmakers pursue goal of dumbing down



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

They have taken to showing the Emmanuelle movies on Channel 5, something that naturally attracted my attention — after all, the eponymous heroine also shares the name of my Alma Mater. The Emmanuelle movies were based on the assumption that a girl simply couldn't have too many.

And then, coming back from the rugby in time to catch the footy on Saturday night, I discovered that *Match of the Day* is based on exactly the same principle. No seduction, no narrative, no foreplay: just wham, wham, wham. It's quite enjoyable, but it lacks the basic subtlety of soft pornography.

When counting wildlife — waders on an estuary, buffalo on the plains — the tendency is to underestimate. With *Match of the Day*'s moments of perfect fulfilment, I fear I may have erred in the opposite direction. Still, in the interests of science I have attempted a count of the number of times we saw the ball hitting the back of the net in the space of one hour and ten minutes of television.

Please look away from the result and have a guess first, just as we used to when we watched *Match of the Day* in the Sixties. All right? Here is the answer, or my answer, anyway: 58 goals. This is just shy of a goal every minute. It is the custom in this country to sneer at basketball and at the audience's pathetic need to have the gratification of a score every time they look up. Football doesn't give you such a rhythm. But *Match of the Day* does. Again and again, relentlessly, it brings us goals at a pace and a rhythm that would leave Emmanuelle herself gasping.

Perhaps this was a slightly unfair week to choose because Arsenal scored five in the featured match — 17 minutes of the match were allowed, and that included three showings of each goal. And then the goals again in the analysis. Balance was redressed by Manchester United, who scored a single goal against Coventry City in another 17-minute contraction of a game. So I suspect that the average of a goal a minute is not far off standard. But then, what is football but goals? Answer: if you don't know, I can't tell you. Every football match is not so much a succession of goals as a narrative of tension and its occasional violent release.

The most enthralling book about sex ever written is *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. It does not take us at breakneck speed from orgasm to morgasm: instead, it is a relentless and terrible narrative of sexual tension and power. It is an almost unbearably tight tale of entrapment, one that seems to end in a kind of three-way 0-0 draw (as in much ado about nothing-nothing) until at the end, every single character seems to lose by penalty shoot-out.

But *Match of the Day* has largely dispensed with narrative. We have short attention spans these days, apparently: we need the gratification of goals and if ten or 15 minutes were to pass without one, perhaps vast numbers of the audience would reach for their zappers.

But — perish the thought — perhaps we would get bored with too many goals. So we zap at breakneck speed from one soundbite post-match interview to the next, get the faces on the screen and then get away before we notice the banality of what they actually say. (The best quote of the day came on Radio 5 Live: Gordon Strachan said that the truly positive thing about Coventry's performance was that his goalie didn't make a save. Coventry, remember, lost 1-0.)

And then, of course, to Alan Hansen, who is seeking to make himself the Oscar Wilde of football, trying, by being always absolutely overeducated, to make up for being always absolutely overdressed. Here's that goal again, but this time, there's a circle round the bloke who set it up. Wham! And here's another with a circle round the scorer. Bam!

Oh, I don't really want to complain about *Match of the Day*. There was a parody of the movie series mentioned above, called *Carry On Emmanuelle*, and that sums up pretty well how I feel about *Match of the Day*.

But it does give us a clue as to the way television people feel about sport these days. They do not trust it. They have lost faith with sport's power to enthral by mere narrative. Hence the visual gimmicks that Sky constantly chucks in to live action: hence the climax-to-climax nature of *Match of the Day*. They don't trust us to pay attention.

The narrative of sport cannot be relied upon, but it is the most thrilling aspect of the whole process. *Match of the Day* stands for a tendency in all televised sport. It is something that many people would consider downright impossible, but they are doing it. It is called the dumbing down of sport.

'I rooted for Giggs because he was brilliant ... and how could anyone dislike Yorke?'

Standing up to fans who hate Man U



LYNNE TRUSS

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT





Giggs, who was brilliant throughout the afternoon at Highfield Road, beats Hedman with a cross-shot to give Manchester United victory over Coventry City

Learning to hate Manchester United has been an uphill struggle, I admit. But unfortunately, since this particular emotion is almost a prerequisite for enjoying English football, I knew from the beginning that I would have to give it a stab. A mild temperamental dislike of West Ham was scarcely adequate as a footie credential, I soon discovered. "I've got quite mixed feelings about Nottingham Forest," I offered, with a small appended "Grrr", to add conviction. "And I'll tell you something else. Highfield Road has got disgusting press facilities."

But footie friends despaired. And more than anything (more even than my equal, even-handed and impossible admiration for both Arsenal and Tottenham), my agnosticism about United marked me as a freak. "This is something you can not be fair-minded about," they said. "This is *Manchester United*." Clearly only a course in electric shocks could ever sort me out to their satisfaction. "Well, I think Man U are very talented actually." Bzzzz. "Aaagh!" "Beckham? Oh, bless his cotton socks, I say." Bzzzzzzzzz. "Aaaaaaaagh!" And so on.

I mention all this because on Saturday, at Highfield Road (where the press facilities are as disgusting as ever), I fell among fans who hated Manchester United to the usual, insane degree, ie, as if the whole team had been responsible for burning their house down or starting the war in the former Yugoslavia. "Break his leg!" was the angry-mob shout to Paul Williams, Coventry's excellent human bulldozer, whenever a tackle was on the cards — an instruction in deliberate poor taste, I thought, when poor Denis "Snapper" Irwin was on the field. The fans booed Beckham, boringly. They stood up in high dudgeon and pointed a lot at Roy Keane. You know the kind of thing.

But here was an opportunity, I realised. The setting was perfect; the conditions ideal. If I really put my mind to it, I could summon up hatred for Manchester United, and finally become a proper football person. *Hate Manchester United, come on, come on!* I urged myself. *Coventry are playing splendidly, yet they will be beaten at home and it's not fair, and Roy Keane is certainly pretty unpleasant when you think about it, grrr, put your back into it, gosh you wouldn't want to meet Jaap Stam down a dark alley, grrr, grrr.* At which point I collapsed defeated and the whistle blew.

To be honest, the one thing that generally prejudices me against teams is simply the bad behaviour of their fans in my proximity, which I recognise is not only an unfair and subjective yardstick, but will sooner or later rule out every team in the country unless I start wearing ear-muffs and watching from a small seat in the family enclosure on Toddlers Only Day.

At the moment, the yelled, unprintable opinions of vile male fans have put me off Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday, Coventry City, Nottingham Forest, Chelsea and Portsmouth; meanwhile nice fans have given me unrealistic soft spots for Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough. Disillusionment awaits at both The Valley and the Riverside, obviously. It's the reason I've seen Crystal Palace only once. About two years ago, I had such an impossibly nice afternoon at Selhurst Park sitting beside an amusing professional wrestler that I dare not return and risk ruining it.

Having said all this, I admit I'm automatically censorious of friends who turn out to support United, because it's so transparently the Smuggins option. "What's your team?" I ask brightly. And when they say "Man U" I purse my lips, but cannot disguise the horror in my eyes. What sort of person would miss the point of the fandom enterprise, which is to build your rickety house of dreams on shifting sands?

In an act deliberately offensive to all fair-minded people, Man U fans had clearly taken one look at those shifting sands, said "Ha! Not me!", brought in an expensive construction team, sunk foundations into firm clay, and then erected an electric fence around the site. Despite the fact that the Bible repeatedly advocates this procedure in parable form, they still ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. So Saturday was a bit of a failure for me. Despite all my best efforts to the contrary, I ended up disliking Coventry. Man U were not on top form, but they had an extra dimension to their game. I kept rooting for Giggs because he was brilliant; and how could anyone dislike Yorke?

The single goal of the match was beautifully achieved through the speed of counter-attack, when Schmeichel threw the ball a spectacular distance to Yorke, who went like a train with it; Giggs intervened and passed it neatly out right to Beckham, then ran to the goal and popped in Beckham's reliably soaring diagonal pass.

For about 20 seconds, Coventry might not have been there. And 20 seconds of inattention from Coventry was all that Manchester United needed to waltz off home with the three points.

People may say I miss the catharsis of football because I don't demand broken limbs or spit on the name of Schmeichel. You have to hate *someone*, they say.

Last week I took a taxi in Brighton and the driver wore a Leeds United hat. "Why do you support Leeds?" I asked. "Because they're my team," he said (somewhat tautologically). "I'm going up to see them play Tottenham. Me, you see, I hate Tottenham, Chelsea and Man U." I had not asked him who he hated, by the way. He just felt the need to volunteer it. He obviously felt that it did him good, or at least defined his character.

But alas, the whole theory of catharsis has been disproved by football in any case. Aristotle's idea was, I think, that an audience could purge its emotions through identification with enacted spectacle, and that through the act of empathy (enmeshed by pity and fear) you became a better person.

With football, however, it's more a case of "Aristotle? Break his legs!" The purging doesn't work. The more you express your feelings at matches, it seems, the more bitter and vindictive and selfish you become. And the more, incidentally, tender little flowers like me have to put up with it.

I will never forget the Wembley crowd's treatment of Matt Le Tissier in the England v Italy World Cup qualifying match two years ago: here was a group of people so murderously angry that it was like witnessing an acid attack.

Yes, they had a valid point to make. A three-toed sloth might have been a nippier option up front than Le Tissier that night. But the crowd virtually howled for his blood. And if that was useful emotional outpouring, then quite honestly, I'm King Lear.

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They should include a daytime telephone number

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Repercussions of the Cup incident at Highbury

From Mr William Le Fleming

Sir, It is a dismal indication of the moral abyss to which sport has now sunk that Arsène Wenger's offer to replay the Arsenal versus Sheffield United FA Cup-tie has been extensively lauded as a Corinthian gesture. After the bizarre behaviour of his players in the original match, such a gesture, even if it is unprecedented, seems no more than a common courtesy.

In any case, Wenger's offer of a replay was born not from a desire to play fair — to play cricket, if you allow the peculiarity of the analogy — it was a piece of entirely understandable self-interest. The man's no fool: the opprobrium that would have been directed at his team had he not done so — with a tidal wave of public hostility swamping the players, already labelled as dirty, at every game — would have damaged their chances of success, and his own record would have been eternally stained by this most media-memorable of events.

His offer of a replay was necessary politics, and should be accepted without surprise or fuss — certainly without the adulatory fawning that this dubious defender, not of high principles, but his players' sometimes outrageous fouls, received.

The implications of the incident itself are far more disturbing than its aftermath. An alert referee, noticing Kanu to be behaving unfairly, should promptly have stopped play before the goal and pointed it out to the poor chap, booking him for unsportsmanlike conduct into the bargain. Kanu, only just on as a substitute and making his debut, had something of an excuse.

The same cannot be said of Overmars. His only possible course of redemption would have been to take possession as soon as possible from the restart and score an own goal to equalise.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM LE FLEMING,
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From Dr Andrew McCaig

Sir, Whilst I applaud the rapid response of the Football Association to the request of the two clubs for a replay, it should be remembered that Arsenal still stand to gain massively from the unsportsmanlike behaviour of their players. They will have several key players back from injury and suspension, far fewer Sheffield United fans will be able to get to a midweek match, and it is unlikely that Wenger will underestimate his opposition a second time.

At the time of the incident the score was 1-1 and Sheffield United were having the better of the second half. A reply at Bramall Lane was what the players and fans deserved.

As for your suggestion that the gate receipts should go to charity, in the unlikely event that I am able to attend the rematch I would want my money to help alleviate the financial crisis at Sheffield United, not to go to some charity not chosen by me.

As is usual in football, it is the "big battalions" that stand to benefit, with Wenger making a public relations triumph and retaining maximum tactical advantage out of the atrocious behaviour of Overmars, one of his senior players.

ANDREW McCAIG,
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From Mr Brian Charlick

Sir, A precedent has been set and in future whenever we see a footballer produce a Oscar-contending dive within the penalty area, resulting in a winning goal from the spot kick, the match will have to be replayed.

Why? Because the player was not playing nicely.

I must be waking from a violent nightmare where footballers, driven by financial greed, seek to get the opposition players sent off or booked, perform dives, pull constantly at opponents' shirts, push over referees and commit other such ungentlemanly acts. To awake from this and discover that fair play does count for something is refreshing.

The shame is that this is all far removed and out of touch with the modern game. If we are to replay the Arsenal versus Sheffield United game because both managers say so, and the winning goal was the result of an ungentlemanly act, then where do we stop?

Sadly, the gesture, while commendable, is too late. Better to amend the rules of the game, for example to give the side wronged against — Sheffield United in this case — a goal kick.

Let's not create dangerous precedents in the heat of the moment, but look at the situation in perspective, and think of the consequences.

BRIAN CHARLICK,
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FA should look abroad

From Mr Charles Gordon

Sir, The controversy over the appointment of a successor to Glenn Hoddle highlights the backward nature of the Football Association and the ability of the press to make the decision for them. Kevin Keegan is not immediately the right candidate for the job. With no proven experience of managing a side of stars on an international stage, one wonders whether he will fall into the same trap as Hoddle did — namely overconfidence in an underachieving side. I would like to see the FA show a more enlightened approach and look abroad.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES GORDON,
49 Paultons Square, London.
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Treading dangerously

From Miss Lydia Kirk and Miss Philippa Johnson

Sir, We are writing in response to your article of February 9 in which the new regulations about grooved Formula One tyres were discussed. Our attention was immediately drawn to the fact that Max Mosley, having consulted Professor Sid Watkins' analysts, engineers and safety experts, failed to take the drivers' views on board.

Surely it must be a mistake to ignore the opinions of such experienced drivers as Michael Schumacher, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve — all recent world champions. After all, it is the drivers who will have to race on them this year. If top drivers like these worry about the future and safety of the racing, what will happen to the drivers who are perhaps not as good.

We do not feel that grooved tyres are the right way forward. If there are more grooves then there is a smaller surface area of rubber in contact with the track, decreasing grip. We do feel that Formula One should be slowed down a bit, but that grooved tyres are likely to make it unsafe and at the same time boring to watch and compete in because of the lack of combat and daring moves.

Yours faithfully,
LYDIA KIRK and
PHILIPPA JOHNSON,
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Wantage, Oxon OX12 8BZ.

Stormy debate

From Mr Mike Thorpe

Sir, As a fan of Manchester Storm, the subject of Devlin Barrett's tirade in his feature about the decline of the ice hockey Sekonda Superleague, I felt inclined to write.

Of course the Superleague is not as good as the NHL. Ice hockey is primarily an American and Canadian sport and although some of Mr Barrett's story praised the standard of the league, the overriding impression created was one of" We're American, and bigger and better than you".

This is only the third season of the Superleague, so the standard is not going to be as high as the NHL, but then the standard of the American and Canadian soccer leagues will never match our own.

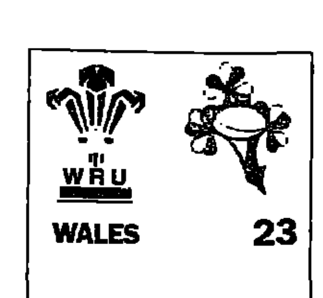
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This week in THE TIMES

TOMORROW: The Guardian Direct Cup begins in London: can Yevgeny Kafelnikov, above, keep the Brits at bay as he continues his challenge to Pete Sampras's world No 1 status?
WEDNESDAY: Will Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, be regretting his sporting decision to offer Sheffield United a second chance in their FA Cup fifth-round tie?
THURSDAY: With Tottenham Hotspur safely ensconced in the Worthington Cup final, George Graham's side will be hoping to have kept another route to Wembley open after their FA Cup replay against Leeds United.
SATURDAY: A full guide to the weekend's FA Carling Premiership action, plus the wit and wisdom of regular columnists Simon Barnes, Oliver Holt and Frank Leboeuf.

Five Nations Championship: Fly half's kicking proves the difference as Ireland march to victory

Humphreys' boot provides polish



WALES 23

IRELAND 29

by Mark Souster



GARY PRIOR / ALLSPORT

Woods, left, McGuinness and Maggs lead the applause at Wembley for the first victory by a rejuvenated Ireland in the championship this season

ON A day when the Welsh nation took another step on the road towards political self-determination with the election of its prospective and probable Assembly leader, Wales provided further evidence that rugby's power base has shifted, inexorably perhaps, away from the Principality. As its people seek greater independence, its team shows evermore dependence on outside help, in the form of a British league, as a cure for its ills. Such are the paradoxes of life. But help they do need.

For Ireland, there are no such problems now that they have learnt to win again. Such was their desperate desire and anxiety to garner victory at Wembley on Saturday that they contrived, almost, to throw away a game that was gift-wrapped and tied with ribbon after an hour. But they had learnt from the desolation of defeat against France and, with Wales rampaging at the gates, found the resolve and belief to come back when it mattered. This was their first win in the Five Nations Championship since the corresponding fixture two years ago, a first win in the tournament for Warren Gatland, the coach, and, unbelievable as it seems, for Keith Wood. The monkey is off their back.

Confidence is high, expectation even higher that this team can go on to realise its full potential. The success, one that maintains Ireland's sequence of not having lost away to Wales since 1983, was significant in many ways — not least for David Humphreys, who, after his misses in Dublin, kicked 19 points, including two dropped goals that ultimately were to make the difference. As Wood, the former captain, said: "It doesn't mean we are world-beaters because we have beaten Wales, but we now have to learn to live with a certain expectation. And people have a right to expect."

Already the Irish are savouring the prospect of England's visit to Dublin in 12 days. Should Ireland win that, then Scotland stand between them and a rare triple crown.

For Wales, there is the gloomy prospect of a whitewash. The road ahead only gets harder from here, with Paris the next stop, followed by England at Wembley. Henry, who talked of the urgent need to restructure the Welsh game as part of a British league that provided regular high-intensity games, will earn every penny of his reputed £250,000 annual salary over the next two months.

Once more the Wales line-out was suspect, whereas Ireland — solid on their own ball — harried and disrupted and twice took Wales throws in the first half. Wales produced slow ball for Howley, which forced Neil Jenkins on to the defensive and ever deeper. One result was that Humphreys was able to charge down his counterpart's clearance kick after 21 minutes, which enabled Maggs to run in unopposed from 40 metres. In contrast, the Ireland forwards provided copy-book ball for Humphreys, with which the fly half was able to dominate the game.

With the strong wind behind him, he varied his options and his kicking from hand, pinning Wales back for long periods in the first half. Ireland kept it simple and squeezed the life out of Wales.

Perhaps it had something to do with the fact that Gatland spent two hours cleaning his boots on Friday, but Humphreys confidently struck three penalty goals in the first half as Ireland eased into a 16-6 lead.

Ireland's self-discipline was another important factor. They ignored Welsh provocation, which resulted in yellow cards for David Young and Craig Quinnell, while Scott Gibbs was lucky to escape punishment after a dangerous, neck-high tackle on Wood.

There were some positive aspects from which Wales can draw encouragement. The Quinnell brothers carried the ball effectively but undid a lot of their good work by spilling the ball in the tackle. [illegible] cially when Craig, under prssure from Clohessy, lost possession in the 46th minute. Niall Woods picked up the loose ball and, from the ruck, McGuinness found Wood outside him. The hooker stepped inside Gibbs and his strength carried him over. The converted try put Ireland 23-6 ahead, an advantage that would have been greater had not Conor O'Shea ignored two overlaps in the first half and Jonathan Bell not sent a dreadful pass to Woods with the wing in space. Wood's try spared O'Shea's blushes, the full back having dallied when chasing his own chip ahead, allowing James to deny him the touchdown.

The next 20 minutes belonged entirely to Wales. Waves of attacks were repulsed before Craig Quinnell forced his way over from a line-out, and then Howarth twisted over in the corner. Suddenly, Wales trailed by only three points, but Humphreys and Ireland were not to be denied. Nor did they deserve to be.

DETAILS FROM WEMBLEY

SCORERS: Wales: Tries: C Quinnell (51min) Howarth (64) **Conversions:** N Jenkins 2. **Penalty goals:** N Jenkins 3 (14, 35, 68) **Ireland: Tries:** Maggs (21), Wood (46) **Conversions:** Humphreys 2. **Penalty goals:** Humphreys 3 (3, 24, 32) **Dropped goals:** Humphreys 2 (49, 74)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Wales first): 0-3, 3-3, 3-10, 3-13, 3-16, 6-16 (half-time), 6-23, 6-26, 13-26, 20-26, 23-26, 23-29

WALES: S P Howarth (Manchester Sale), **M F D Robinson** (Swansea), **M Taylor** (Swansea), **I S Gibbs** (Swansea), **D R James** (Cardiff), **N R Jenkins** (Pontypridd), **R Howley** (Cardiff, captain) **D R Morris** (Swansea) **B Williams** (Richmond, rep **G R Jenkins**, Swansea, 53min), **D Young** (Cardiff; rep **C Anthony**, Swansea, 65), **J C Quinnell** (Richmond), **C P Wyatt** (Llanelli), **C L Charvis** (Swansea), **M E Williams** (Pontypridd, rep **M J Voyle** Llanelli, 27-35), **L S Quinnell** (Llanelli)

IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish), **J P Bishop** (London Irish), **K M Maggs** (Bath), **J C Bell** (Dungannon), **N K P J Woods** (London Irish) **D G Humphreys** (Dungannon) **C D McGuinness** (St Mary's College) **P M Clohessy** (Young Munster; rep **J M Fitzpatrick** Dungannon, 65) **K G M Wood** (Harlequins), **P S Wallace** (Saracens) **P S Johns** (Saracens, captain; rep **M J Galwey**, Shannon, 80) **J W Davidson** (Castres) **D O'Cuinneagain** (Manchester Sale) **A J Ward** (Ballymena) **E R P Miller** (Terenure College; rep **V C P Costello**, St Mary's College, 65)

Referee: S Young (Australia)

Henry tries to look on bright side

GERALD DAVIES

At Wembley

Graham Henry confessed that the Five Nations Championship as a tournament is effectively over for Wales. With Wales having lost their two matches so far — the two fixtures that they won last season — and with the daunting task of going to Paris looming in two weeks' time, they are not going to be in a position to challenge for a meaningful place in the table.

Yet, as ever, the New Zealander looked for any positive points that he could draw from the most disappointing of episodes. "At least the pressure is off Wales now," he said. "There is nothing left for us to do except to do our best as a group of people."

Even though his team failed, he believes still that it is improving and, to illustrate his view, he pointed to the 20-minute period between the 49th and 69th minutes, when Wales, as he said, "struck a purple patch". By this stage, Ireland had advanced to a seemingly irrecoverable 26-6 lead and which would have encouraged more experienced teams, according to Warren Gatland, the Ireland coach, to go for more and put the opposition away for good.

The Ireland players might have thought at that stage that they had already accomplished enough, but the first of David Humphreys's two dropped goals signalled a resurgence in Welsh fortunes. They might have turned the tables, too, had they maintained a degree of composure when they had recovered to be only three points adrift and with 12 minutes of proper time still to go. But composure is not a quality that easily comes to mind with this Wales team at the moment.

> 'Wales were forced to play catch-up'

Were they blessed with it, they would not have found themselves in the predicaments of their past two fixtures. In this game at Wembley, as in Edinburgh two weeks ago, Wales were forced to chase someone else's lead, to play catch-up rugby. An urgency thus creeps into their game that sees them commit unforced error after unforced error and, as a result, they are unable to put persistent pressure on the opposition.

Time and again, they paved the way to attack, posed questions of the Ireland defence only for a knock-on, a spilt ball or misdirected pass to release the opposition of continued, serious threat. A relieving kick or scrum takes the problem away. For the most part, Wales played a disjointed game, promising much but ultimately lacking fluency and discipline.

They gave away points, too. If Townsend was able to race away 70 metres for Scotland after intercepting an awkward Welsh pass at Murrayfield, so David Humphreys charged down a kick by Neil Jenkins and allowed Maggs to run clear for a score on Saturday. The Wales fly half's flat positioning so close to the advantage line and to the Ireland defence provided the little Dungannon fly half, in near proximity, with the opportunity. In both matches, therefore, Wales presented a gift of seven valuable points.

There is more, much more that is critical and which every team that Wales faces has come to understand. The Wales pack is fragile in the two key areas of set-piece play and are unable to impose their authority. Wales hold no fears for anyone in the line-out. Once again, this phase looked unsure. Whereas Johns and Davidson leapt high to secure a firm ball for their team, Wyatt, to whom the ball is invariably thrown, is not quite so confident, although he did improve as the game progressed. Knowing where the ball is to be thrown encourages the opposition to challenge for possession. This, in turn, puts an unnecessary pressure on the team of a kind that Wales themselves do not seem so obviously to impose on their opponents.

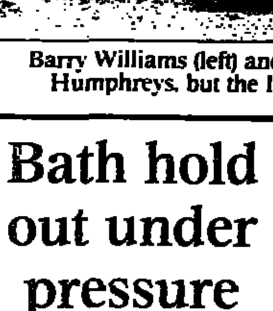
Nor does the scrum provide a strong platform. Security here lends confidence to a team. Whatever changes the laws have wrought and whatever talk there is of a "modern" game, the virtue of power in the scrum remains a potent force, physically and psychologically. It does wonders to a team's morale to see the forwards more than hold their own in the scrum.

Ireland, in their two fixtures so far, look to be a confident unit and, with two games still to go, have it well within their capacity to take the triple crown. There is a cohesion to their play brought about, largely, by the control of Humphreys.

He chooses his play shrewdly. When matters began to go awry for his team and the swing of the match changed in Wales's favour, it was Humphreys, with memories of what fate had in store for his team in the final stages against France, who, calmly, kept his team on course. He not only forced Wales backwards and into the corners, but he dropped the goal, smartly, that gave his team the extra breathing space to ride out what was left of the game.



Barry Williams (left) and James combine to ground Humphreys, but the Irishman emerged on top



Bath hold out under pressure

BATH recovered some lost pride but had to survive enormous second-half pressure to beat Saracens 24-18 in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup. Iain Balshaw, the full back, opened the scoring for Bath after three minutes. Moments later Tokumbo Adebayo powered through while his brother, Adedayo, also scored.

Although Bath opened the second-half scoring with a try by Gareth Cooper, Saracens hit back with tries from Roberto Grau and Gregg Botterman while Rob Thirlby converted two penalty goals.

Bedford, of the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, survived a rousing fightback in the second half from Rugby Lions, of the second division, to edge into the last eight 22-19. Bedford scored early tries through James Cockle and John Wells, with Rory Underwood, the former England wing, also scoring in the first half. Tony Yapp added two conversions. Rugby came back with tries by Chris Tarbuck, Oscar Wingham and Dean Morgan, but to no avail.

Gough beats the clock to leave Bristol red-faced

Coventry	22
Bristol	19

By Nicolas Andrews

BRISTOL, for so long the promotion favourites in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division, lost control of the game and with it their destiny this season at Barkers Butts Lane yesterday. A powerful second-half forward display saw Bristol finally overhaul Coventry with three minutes left, but the hard work was totally undone in injury time as their defence opened up to allow Steve Gough to score and convert a winning try.

"Outrageously pathetic," was the damning verdict of Bob Dwyer, the Bristol director of rugby. "People weren't facing up to their responsibilities." With eight games left, Bristol are level on points with Rotherham and two behind Worcester at the top. The potential link-up with London Scottish next season looks more likely by the week.

Bristol had begun confidently enough, with Michael Misson scoring a fourth-minute try when he gathered a long pass from David Knox. But Gough, a fly half playing on the Coventry wing, reduced the deficit after Mark Gabey was penalised.

Gough was to miss three more kicks at goal into the wind before the break, but, from the second of these, the ball came back off a post and Coventry mounted their first spell of sustained pressure.

After Simon Martin, the Bristol centre, had been carried off with a serious knee injury, Kevin Whitley, the Coventry captain, drove over to give his side an interval lead.

Results and tables, page 39

Richie Robinson put Coventry ten points ahead two minutes after the break, when he took Andy Smallwood's pass to run in from 30 metres, but the Bristol forwards then took control. First Gabey scored a pushover try, and twice more the pack forced its way over the line only for the referee to rule that they had not touched down. However, the penalty try that Mike Hamlin awarded in the 77th minute was a formality after six successive scrums had ended with the Coventry pack wheeling or collapsing under severe pressure.

For Bristol to lose from there was unforgivable. "I am never defeatist but I honestly thought we couldn't do it," Keith Richardson, the Coventry director of rugby, said. "I was even more impressed with that last couple of minutes than the first 78."

Rather than run down the clock deep in Coventry territory, Bristol conceded a penalty and Luis Criscuolo kicked his side upfield. The Coventry fly half then put through a delightful grubber kick and Gough won the race to touch down. "Against a pack like that, you've got to be brave and honest," Richardson said. "We were both."

SCORERS: Coventry: Tries: Whitley (33min), Robinson (42), Gough (80) **Conversions:** Gough 2 **Penalty goal:** Gough (8). **Bristol: Tries:** Misson (3), Gabey (48), penalty try (77) **Conversions:** Knox 2

SCORING SEQUENCE (Coventry first): 0-5, 3-5, 10-5 (half-time), 15-5, 15-12, 15-19, 22-19

COVENTRY: W Kilford, S Gough, R Robinson (rep J Minshull, 64min), M Curtis, A Smallwood, L Criscuolo, A Dawson, R Morgan (rep A Kershaw, 41), D Addleton, S Kerr, M Fountaine (rep N Watkins, 59), K Whitley, L Crofts, C Houston (rep R Salisbury, 69), J Horrobin.

BRISTOL: P Hull, M Misson, J Pritchard, S Martin (rep C Hassan, 31), B Breeze, D Knox, G Baber, J Wring, D Tarrant, P Lemoine, C Eagle, A Charron, J Brownrigg, M Bennett, M Gabey.

Referee: M Hamlin.



MES MONDAY FEBRUARY 2

and march to victor

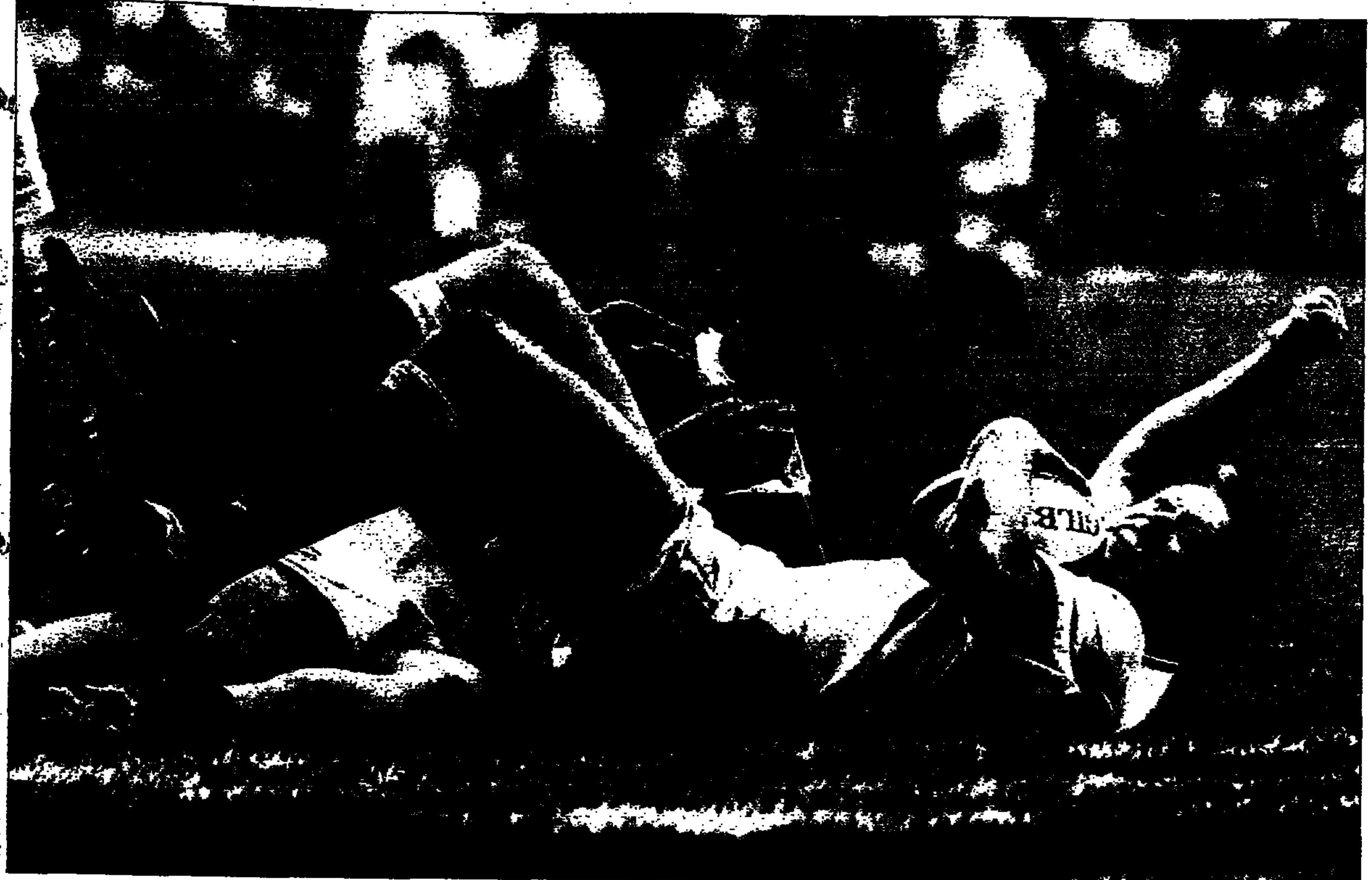
Henry tries to look on bright side

GERALD DAV

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stol red-faced

Five Nations Championship: Scotland go home empty-handed despite brave performance



John Leslie, of Scotland, sees little reason to join in as Beal celebrates scoring his try for England at Twickenham on Saturday. Photographs: Marc Aspland



ENGLAND 24

SCOTLAND 21

by David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

England fall short of highest standards

FOR the northern hemisphere's primary contenders, the World Cup must look a long way away. France mopped their brows with relief on escaping Dublin with victory in their Five Nations Championship bag a fortnight ago and, on Saturday at Twickenham, England underwent similar emotions. They retained the Calcutta Cup for the ninth successive year with a display that started full of promise and declined into an exercise in cliff-hanging.

There will have been Scots retreating north yesterday wondering what they must do to break the hold that Twickenham has on them and whether, if Kenny Logan had kicked more than 50 per cent of his goals, they would now be standing two matches to the good halfway through the championship, sponsored by Lloyds TSB.

Gregor Townsend encapsulated the afternoon neatly enough. "For 15 minutes, England were awesome; for the rest, they were ordinary," the Scotland fly half said. Whether that had anything to do with the shoulder injury that eventually forced Martin Johnson off the field is a matter for debate; the heart beats so strongly in Johnson that, on those rare days when he falls beneath his own elevated standards, it can have an effect on those around him.

That the England lock was also involved in another disciplinary issue had no effect on the tenor of the match, for England had lost their momentum well before then. Johnson received a yellow card for stamping on John Leslie's chestbone as he went in to clear a ruck, the Scotland player — on the wrong side of the ball — half-turning on his front moments before.

Any Scots wishing to throw stones might scrutinise the rucking of their forwards in an earlier incident from which Johnson emerged with cuts around his eye. It would be far more pertinent for England to query their own tactical approach, which served them well in the first half but required change in the second.

Scotland had worked them out by half-time, but England's inflexibility was illustrated by their standing all their backs on one side of the field behind a scrum midway through the second half, then to see that same scrum reset five times when all they wanted was a swift service — the episode ended with the England front row being penalised.

Scotland's reactions to errors, of which there were plenty, were far swifter. They were well aware of the complementary strengths of their midfield and it is no coincidence that their three tries should have come from that area.

Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, described two of those tries as soft; he would do better to examine England's deficiencies rather than the speed of thought and execution that allowed Scotland to cross three times an England line pierced only once in four pre-Christmas internationals.

England were clearly aware of an absence of physical presence in midfield by the use they made in the first half of Dan Luger, who had an outstanding match, and Nick Beal. Elsewhere, however, there is work to be done before they travel to meet a resurgent Ireland in Dublin on March 6: the tail of the lineout was a disaster, the scrummaging no more than average (although Johnson, numb in the shoulder and arm from midway through the first half, may have contributed to that) and the back row remains unconvincing as a unit.

Far too much ball was turned over and David McHugh might have allowed the secondary phases longer to develop; the Irish referee was very sharp to whistle when the ball went to ground, which limited continuity, from which England suffered in the first half, Scotland in the second. McHugh also penalised both sides for not releasing in the tackle when it seemed that the ball was coming back in a controlled manner. "Southern-hemisphere referees do have an interpretation which seems to free the ball up a bit more," Dallaglio said wryly.

On the positive side, two young players caught the eye: Scott Murray, 23, is fast developing into an all-round tight forward, utterly dependable at the lineout, combative enough to take on players of extensive experience and as good a passer of the ball as one could wish — to which Tait bears witness for his first try. Jonathan Wilkinson, four years younger, had just the understated kind of game to induce confidence for his next outing.

He kicked his four goals without a hint of nerves, points that made the vital difference; he looked for openings, kicked long and well out of hand, and his defence in the frenetic closing stages was impeccable.

If England were pulled out of position in midfield twice, then Scotland can take substantial credit. They had gone 14 points behind thanks to two well-worked England tries that hinted at a deluge to come. Purposeful forward play gave Tim Rodber the first, Luger's counter-attack from a clearance by Armstrong established the platform from which Back delivered the perfect pass back to Luger in the corner for the second.

Even when Dallaglio's poor tapdown gave Peters possession and paved the way to Tait's first try, there seemed no reason why England should not make progress. Instead, their game lost shape, to such an extent that Armstrong was able to loop Townsend behind a lineout and send Tait on a direct course to the line for his second try.

Had Logan not missed his third penalty attempt, Scotland would have been level, but they still had the character to hit back after Beal ran powerfully on to a dropped ball by Dawson for the third England try. Catt's space was closed down to such a degree that Townsend was able to snap up his dropped pass and sprint clear from 50 metres in what is becoming a memorable season for him.



Luger leaves a prone Armstrong flailing in his wake

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	1	0	1	54	44	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	38	33	2
England	1	1	0	0	24	21	2
France	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
Wales	2	0	0	2	43	62	0

RESULTS

Feb 6: Ireland 9 France 10, Scotland 33 Wales 20

Feb 20: England 24 Scotland 21, Wales 23 Ireland 29

FIXTURES

Mar 6: Ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris.

Mar 20: England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Edinburgh;

Apr 10: France v Scotland, Paris.

Apr 11: Wales v England, Wembley.

DETAILS FROM TWICKENHAM

SCORERS: England: Tries: Rodber (7min), Luger (19), Beal (67). Conversions: Wilkinson 3 Penalty goal: Wilkinson (40) Scotland: Tries: Tait 2 (27, 47), Townsend (73). Conversions: Logan 3

SCORING SEQUENCE (England first): 7-0, 14-0, 14-7, 17-7 (half-time), 17-14, 24-14, 24-21.

ENGLAND: N D Beal (Northampton); D L Rees (Sale), J C Guscott (Bath), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle Falcons), D D Luger (Harlequins); M J Catt (Bath), M J S Dawson (Northampton; rep: K P P Bracken, Saracens, 70min); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester; rep: D J Grewcock, Saracens, 68), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens)

SCOTLAND: G H Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians); C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), J A Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K M Logan (Wasps); G P J Townsend (Brive), G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons, captain), T J Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), A P Burnell (London Scottish; rep: D I W Hilton, Bath, 69), S Murray (Bedford), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons; rep: A C Pountney, Northampton, 54), M D Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), E W Peters (Bath).

Referee: D T M McHugh (Ireland).

True excellence requires much more flexibility

MICHAEL LYNAGH

England started so well that the signs were there for Scotland that their run of defeats at Twickenham was going to continue in an emphatic way. Two things contributed to this contest being a lot closer than the initial evidence provided. England started to overcomplicate matters and, as a consequence, Scotland started to feed off the increasing English error rate to get back into the game. They finished the better team.

A sign of a good team is one that wins even if it hasn't played well. England knew they hadn't played well. Absent were the hands in the air and jubilant hugging shown after the epic victory over South Africa before Christmas.

Instead, there were sombre looks, faces that knew that when the time comes for the team to view the match video there will be a lot of finger-pointing by the coach.

Scotland, on the other hand, will know that this was a lost opportunity. They had the chance to win this game. They started slowly, almost feeling their way as if they didn't quite believe they had played so well against Wales two weeks earlier.

Then they found their feet. Heroic performances up front provided the platform for Armstrong, Townsend, John Leslie and Tait to start probing. The Scotland lineout, led by the impressive Scott Murray, was faultless and their scrum continually turned the England pack, making it hard for them to get their plays working smoothly. The back row, led by the barrel-like form of Peter Walton, continually battered the English.

Scotland proved with this performance that the win against Wales was not a fluke and that they could develop into a real force. England, by contrast, were very disappointing. After starting so well, by doing basic things right and at pace, they then lost their way. It was as if they smelt 50 points in the offing and wanted to score them all before half-time.

There were some interesting tactics being employed in the backs, which entailed Guscott and Wilkinson giving way to Beal and Luger in the centre, with Catt drifting wide and Dawson dropping from scrum half to fly half. Richard Hill had the job of getting the ball from the scrum to this newly-designed backline.

England used this ploy at least twice in the first half. It worked, in that it got the ball over the gain line, and on one occasion at least, had the ball missed the ball-carrier coming through the middle and gone wide, where England had a three-on-one overlap, points were there to be had.

In the second half England persisted with calling the formation, even though Scotland had worked out how to counter it — by wheeling the scrum and making it difficult for Hill to pass the ball. At the same time, Townsend had identified Catt as the pivotal playmaker and charged him, resulting in seven points for Scotland. Townsend has added interception as a new skill to his repertoire.

Once on the field, England do not seem to have the ability to adapt to their opponents' play. They seem to have decided what they are going to do before the game and, robot-like, stick with it, no matter what is happening around them.

Whose responsibility is this? Well, I believe there is a place for a game-plan prior to the game. The coach and players should arrive at this, on the basis of studying the opposition they are playing, identifying their strengths, combating these and exploiting perceived areas of weakness.

Once on the pitch, if this plan is not working, then the captain must give direction to change this plan to the chief playmakers, normally the half backs, and then they must make calls according to the directives given by the captain.

Once a particular call has been made, if the situation changes once the ball has been put into play, as it did on Saturday when Scotland wheeled the England eight, then the half backs must change the play according to what the situation is dictating to them.

This is not the captain's responsibility, but the players who first receive the ball. This did not happen on Saturday. Someone must take responsibility to change the call and not just go through with the play at all costs because that's what has been called. This is immature, robotic rugby.

These things can be coached and taught. All it needs is for the players and coach to ask the question: "What happens if we call move X, which involves the play going to the right, and the scrum is wheeled to the left?"

From this will come some simple options that can be called on the pitch according to the situation presented at the time. England, if Saturday is anything to go by, do not have this ability at present.

Townsend and Armstrong for Scotland reacted to what was happening on the pitch a lot better than their English rivals. Townsend looks a much more competent fly half this season. He has the courage to make decisions according to what is happening on the pitch. They are not always the right ones, but at least he is making them.

I think that the influence that John Leslie is having on him is helping him a great deal and, with Alan Tait at outside centre, these guys are forming a pretty formidable midfield.

If England's stated goal is to be the best, then it is not enough to have 15 talented players on the field. They must also have players in key positions willing to make decisions that help utilise this talent in the best possible way and exploit the opposition with all the weapons that the team has in its armoury.

Much better to be able to try to develop all this after having a win, which is the case for England. They have the win, which they had to get, now they can concentrate on developing more as a team.

Stumped by the success of Plan A

SIMON BARNES



At Twickenham

Brace yourself, gentle rugby person, because I am about to be really, really cruel. I am going to say the cruellest thing I can think of. And, by God, I mean it to sting. Are you ready? Let's go. The England rugby union team that played Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday reminded me of nothing so much as the England cricket team.

I let myself off the post-match press conference. I feared the management would be saying: "We flippin' well murdered them and they know it." Both the England rugby and cricket teams fancy themselves as part of the elite, members of the premier league of their sport. The cricket team grant Sri Lanka — the world champions, no less — a single, measly Test match. The rugby team flounce about saying they are a cut above the Celts and that they really belong with the big boys of the southern hemisphere.

And neither can sustain the bluff. England were beaten by Sri Lanka last summer, absolutely hammered by Australia, their alleged equals, in the winter, and have come slinking home pretending they are hot prospects for the World Cup.

The rugby boys have a slightly better case, I grant you. They beat South Africa in the autumn, and did so gloriously enough. And they managed a victory on Saturday, though only because the Scots failed to kick their penalty goals.

There are only two things that the England cricket team can't cope with. The first of these is the failure of Plan A. When the opening batsmen are out cheaply, the rest invariably follow: when the opening bowlers fail to make inroads, there is no one to stem the tide of runs.

The second thing that the England cricket team cannot cope with is the trauma of Plan A coming off. If the openers come good, be sure the middle-order collapse will follow. When the strike bowlers knock over the first three batsmen for a handful of runs, sit back and wait for a tail-ender to play the innings of his life.

At Twickenham we saw a team that utterly failed to cope with the success of Plan A. They never recovered from scoring a brilliant opening try. Rugby is becoming an increasingly choreographed sport, and the England forwards danced through a series of rehearsed advances, making the Scots look as if they were working for the same script-writer.

It was compelling stuff, and Rodber's try emphasised every aspect of the natural superiority of the English that the negotiators had tried to bulldoze through in committee. A second try, this time involving the backs, put England into an unshakeable lead. Plan A was a thing of beauty: and England panicked.

What followed was something that cricket followers know with terrible intimacy: the England Domino Effect. One person's error leads to another person's error leads to another person's error. One wicket is followed by another wicket. One witless stroke is followed by another witless stroke. In the field it is bad balls, bad overs and the inevitable outbreak of dropped catches and muffed run-outs.

And it always seems to be beyond anyone's power to stop it. On Saturday, we watched the forwards getting sucked, or perhaps I mean suckered, into private muddy battles, at the expense of wider aims such as scoring points. Martin Johnson possesses the most wonderful Cro-Magnon brow-ridge, but he lacks the concentration that allowed early man to co-operate in the hunt.

England conceded penalties instead of scoring; they kicked their own penalties for position instead of points. They persisted with various brilliant and clearly ineffective tactics, such as playing Matt Dawson alternately as fly half and loose forward, neither the ideal role for a scrum half.

England lacked narrative cohesion. They muddled through, thanks to the Scotland kicking. The Scots did awfully well, and they know that they should have won. Both sides would do well to go away and ponder the lesson that they should have learnt in rugby's kindergarten. An international match is no place for the learning of the most basic lesson in the game.

'An international match is no place for learning the basic lesson of the game'

But here it is, so learn it. You Ruck For Show But You Kick For Dough. In-your-face superiority and ferocious glaring from beneath the Cro-Magnon brow-ridge will only get you so far. Bad decision-making constantly let Scotland off the hook: only bad kicking did the same for England.

Thus the match ended with a kind of glum anticlimax, and if England can manage to provoke that kind of reaction at Twickenham on the first Five Nations match of their season, they have achieved something pretty difficult. Let's forget the World Cup, shall we? This was a second-division performance. Not even the streaker got a cheer. Just another person who misread the mood of the game and mistimed his run.

Johnson incident serves to highlight anomaly in laws

By Alasdair Reid

MARTIN JOHNSON'S studs left only a slight trace on the neck of John Leslie, but their impact on the regulations of the game could be considerable. When the England lock brought his left boot down on the grounded Scotland centre in the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham on Saturday, he delivered yet another embarrassing reminder that the law is something of an ass as far as violent conduct is concerned.

Johnson received an inconsequential yellow card from David McHugh, the referee, for an offence that many observers considered worthy of a sending-off. Not only was the punishment both lenient and practically meaningless in the context of the game, but it also ruled out the possibility of any further action being taken against the player — as rugby's citing procedures can only be made in respect of actions that match officials have not seen. The hands of both the Scotland management team and Pierre Camou, the French match commissioner, were tied once McHugh, the Irish referee, had taken his card from his pocket.

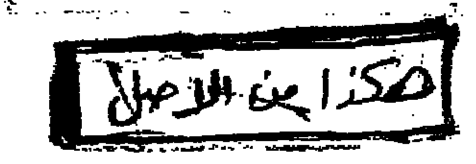
That anomaly has already been the subject of considerable discussion among International Board (IRB) members and its latest demonstration is likely to hasten its removal from the game's statute book at the next meeting of the IRB in April. No formal proposition has yet been framed, but Allan Hosie, chairman of the Five Nations Committee and one of Scotland's two IRB delegates, suggested yesterday that the most likely course would be to strengthen the powers of match commissioners in situations where on-the-spot punishment is not seen to fit a crime.

"We are looking at the problem," Hosie said. "The situation would be that if a referee yellow-carded a player then a citing commissioner, as opposed to a match commissioner, could judge that the situation merited more than just a yellow card. He would look at that independently of any action that was taken on the field."

In the case of Johnson, "upgrading" his card from yellow to red would bring the full disciplinary process into action and, almost certainly, result in a lengthy ban for the player. As things stand, no further action will be taken against him unless the Rugby Football Union decide to act unilaterally.



Leslie, grounded, is defenceless as Johnson leaves his mark



GOLF

Lawrie keeps nerves at bay in stroll to victory

FROM JON GREEN IN DOHA, QATAR

PAUL LAWRIE was as relieved as he was delighted after strolling home to collect the £102,283 first prize in the Qatar Masters on Saturday. His final round of 68 gave him a comfortable seven-stroke victory after finishing on 268, 20 under par.

Lawrie had begun the day with a five-stroke advantage over Jean van de Velde, of France, but he was determined to take nothing for granted, especially after a dismal early-morning practice session.

"I didn't sleep at all well last night. I just paced the room," the Scotsman said. "Everything was going through my mind, so I sat and watched movies and cricket on TV. I hate cricket, but I watched it anyway. I then went out on to the range and hit the ball the worst I've done all week — and then suddenly five shots didn't feel that much at all."

A bogey on the par-three 3rd may have started to cast long shadows of doubt in his mind, but a birdie on the next, after hitting a six-iron to within three feet, steadied his nerves. Lawrie, 30, then birdied two more holes on the front nine before sinking three birdies in four holes after the turn to banish any lingering worries.

"At the 10th, I holed a horrible little sneaky put from seven feet for a birdie and basically it was done and dusted there. I hit a wedge to within three inches at the next and by then it was game over, really."

The competition for second place was tied between Phil Price, of Wales, and Soren Kjeldsen, of Denmark, who finished on 275, 13 under par, after both completed final rounds of 68. Price was particularly pleased with his performance, for it was evidence of a new consistency in his game. He has finished eleventh, third and second in his past three tournaments.

Raymond Russell looked set to join Price and Kjeldsen in a three-way tie for second until he hooked his drive into the lake beside the 18th fairway. The triple-bogey that followed sent the Scotsman down into fifth place, whilst John Bickerton, from England, completed an enjoyable event with a 71 to finish fourth. The challenges of Ian Woosnam and Mark James tailed off after they had final rounds of 71 and 74 respectively, their worst of the week.

Saturday belonged to Lawrie, though, and whilst the piper played *Flower of Scotland* during the trophy presentation, Lawrie had time to reflect on the victory that he hopes may silence his critics. His only previous European Tour win came in disputed circumstances at the Catalan Open in 1996, which was cut to just 36 holes after bad weather intervened.

"Everyone still mentions that the last win was over two rounds and I got fed up of hearing it," he said. "People were saying that it wasn't a 'real win'. If they want to say that, then fine, but personally I still feel it was a win. This is obviously better than the Catalan Open and to have gone out there and played well was the big thing for me. To break 70 again I thought would be very tough, but I played lovely today. I played absolutely beautifully — it's all come right."

After finishing a lowly 62nd in the European rankings last year, Lawrie's victory in the Qatar Masters has, on its own, almost surpassed his total earnings for 1998. He is placed fourth in the Volvo Order of Merit and sits just outside the automatic Ryder Cup places. Lawrie now plans to enjoy a week's holiday with his wife and children, before heading off to Portugal to participate in the Algarve Open, which starts on March 4.

FINAL SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **268:** P Lawrie 68, 65, 67, 68 **275:** S Kjeldsen (Den) 70, 65, 72, 68 P Price 70, 68, 69, 68 **277:** J Bickerton 68, 67, 71, 71 **278:** C Hanell (Swe) 71, 67, 70, 70, R Russell 66, 70, 70, 72; J van de Velde (Fr) 69, 66, 70, 73 **279:** R May (US) 67, 70, 72, 70, J Spence 71, 67, 72, 69, I Woosnam 68, 70, 70, 71. **280:** A Cejka (Ger) 69, 69, 69, 73, M Gronberg (Swe) 72, 67, 71, 70; Kang Wook-soon (S Kor) 71, 67, 69, 73, P Sjoland (Swe) 74, 69, 72, 65 **282:** S Gallacher 69, 68, 69, 76 **283:** A Hansen (Den) 72, 70, 70, 71, F Lindgren (Swe) 72, 68, 74, 69; P McGinley 72, 69, 72, 70; K Tomori (Japan) 69, 70, 72, 72



Nicholas concentrates on the putt at the 7th that gave her a birdie during her final round of 73 in Hawaii

Nicholas ends her drought

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALISON NICHOLAS, the British golfer who endured injury and illness throughout 1998, ended a 19-month run without a victory by claiming a one-stroke triumph in the Hawaiian Ladies Open on Saturday.

Nicholas's final round of 73 was enough to hold off the challenge of both Moira Dunn and Annette DeLuca and complete her fourth LPGA Tour win — her first since the 1997 US Women's Open. Her three-round total of 209, seven under par, collected her $97,500 (about £60,000) in prize money.

Nicholas won just £50,000 in 15 events last year and had claimed only £6,000 in her first four events this season. "Last year was tough," she said. "I won the US Open in 1997 and I suffered from the pressure beyond that. Last year I was ill and also fell off my moped, so this is a great change. I'm delighted to be back in the winner's circle."

Dunn and DeLuca were both thwarted in their bids to break their respective ducks on the LPGA Tour. Dunn produced a round of 68, four under par and DeLuca recorded a 70.

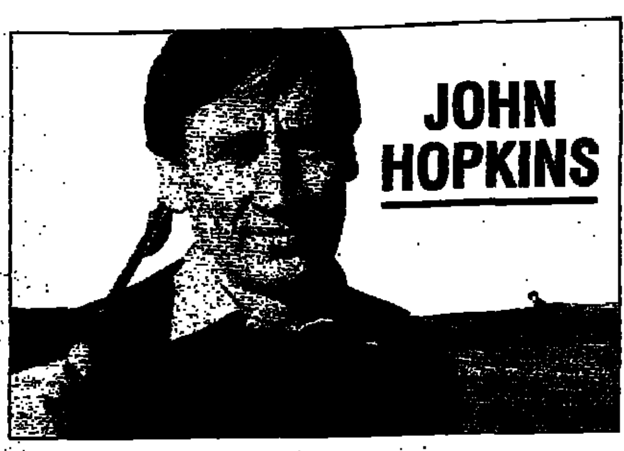
Jan Stephenson, of Australia, who has not won a tournament since 1987, finished in fourth place on 211 after a closing round of 71. Michelle McGann, who shared the second-round lead with Nicholas, dropped off the leaderboard with a nine-over-par 81 that included four double bogeys, four bogeys, an eagle and a birdie.

Nicholas had eight pars and a birdie on the front nine, but the back nine proved far tougher as the wind and rain grew steadily worse. She three-putted from 25 feet for a bogey at the 13th and repeated that from 40 feet at the closing hole.

"On the 5th tee, we were absolutely soaked. It reminded me of home," Nicholas joked. "I knew that, because of the weather, it was going to be a tough day."

Wendy Ward, the defending champion, and Se Ri Pak, of South Korea, the 1998 rookie of the year, both missed the cut.

Strokeplay no match for head-to-head



What do Ian Fleming, P.G. Wodehouse, John Updike, Ring Lardner, Richard Ford, Stephen Potter and Agatha Christie have in common? I shall award you one point for knowing that golf features in the works of these authors, quite often in the case of Wodehouse. I shall award a bonus point to anyone who knows that they wrote quite often about matchplay golf.

In Wodehouse's matches the hero, who usually is hapless, helpless or hopeless, and sometimes all three, is often playing for the hand of a comely girl. On occasions, though, the stakes are eccentric. The American millionaires, Bradbury Fisher and Gladstone Bott, played a rousing match for three railroads and an English butler.

Such matches are a joy to read about because Wodehouse lived and loved golf and understood the rhythms of the game. Consider this passage: "Gladstone Bott ... fussed about for a few minutes like a hen scratching gravel, then with a stiff quarter swing sent his ball straight down the fairway for a matter of seventy yards, and it was Bradbury Fisher's turn to drive ... It was his [Fisher's] habit, as a rule, to raise his left foot some six inches from the ground and, having swayed forcefully back on to his right leg, to sway sharply forward again and lash out with sickening violence in the general direction of the ball."

> 'The hero is usually helpless, hapless or hopeless'

Fleming has contributed the widest-known golf match of all time to literature. Anyone who has not read how James Bond defeated Goldfinger in Fleming's book of that name has probably seen a recreation of the match in the film. Though in the book the course is named Royal St Mark's and described as the *greatest seaside course in the world*, where the club professional was Cyril Whiting, Fleming set it at Royal St George's, where he was a member and past captain, and the then professional was Cyril Blacking.

It is revealing that for more weeks than not, strokeplay golf demands my attention, yet my memories are divided equally between the two. It follows that matchplay has that extra something.

Matchplay encourages the daring stroke because the only penalty is the loss of the hole and not the loss of several strokes and ultimately prize money. Matchplay to strokeplay is rugby union to rugby league, a sports car to a saloon, a devilish little par four of 340 yards to a 450-yard par four into a wind.

Strokeplay is unremitting, like being gripped in a vice on the first tee and not released until the last putt is holed. It takes forever. It can be boring and often is.

Matchplay was therefore the natural form of golf when a relative and I played the other day. We had not seen each other for a while and had never played together. We met just after nine o'clock, teed off at 9.25 and as we played we talked of this and that. At least Roddy did; I listened. We played off our respective handicaps and I had to hole a three-footer on the 18th to halve a match in which almost every hole was won or lost. The hands on the clock stood at 11.55 as we completed our round, match all square, honour shared, much enjoyment had by both of us.

Matchplay has a way of insinuating itself deep into the consciousness. I have no recollection of my first competitive round, at the age of eight, other than knowing it was 144 strokes. On the other hand, I can remember quite clearly my first serious match. It was against John Jermine in the quarter-finals of the Welsh Boys' Championship at Llandrindod Wells in 1960. I lost, but thank you for asking. Perhaps you would like me to take you through it hole by hole?

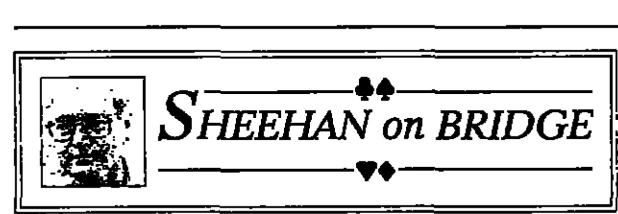
This talk of matchplay is relevant because starting on Wednesday is the first significant matchplay competition for professional golfers from all over the world since the US PGA Championship abandoned its traditional matchplay format and went to strokeplay in the late 1950s.

There is a real sense of anticipation at the thought of 64 of the world's best 65 players teeing off against one another in 32 matches. My one wish is that the matches were over 36 holes, not 18, because the longer the match, the less chance is involved. "It's like playing one set of tennis," Colin Montgomerie said. "Anything can happen."

Given the quality and the size of the field in Carlsbad, California, it is certain that at least one match will become clearly written into the annals of golf. There is so much at stake that caution will have to be thrown to the wind. "You will have to go for everything," Ernie Els said recently. "It's 18 holes and, if you lose your match, you are out. There is no second chance."

Many golfers these days, particularly those in the United States, where strokeplay is a way of life, struggle with the concept of matchplay. Believe me, learning how to play against an opponent rather than against a card is a form of golf worth learning.

Freddie Tait, the amateur champion who once drove the 18th green at St Andrews using a gutta percha ball, was as deft with words as he was prodigious from the tee. "Matchplay is the thing," Tait said. "Strokeplay is so much rifle shooting."



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand comes from the 1955 World Championship, which Great Britain won.

Dealer West Game all Teams

West	North	East
	♠ 10 9 3 ♡ K 8 5 4 ♢ A Q ♣ J 9 5 2	
♠ J 6 5 2 ♡ J 7 ♢ K J 6 3 2 ♣ A Q	N / W E / S	♠ A Q 8 ♡ 6 3 ♢ 9 8 5 4 ♣ 7 6 4 3
	♠ K 7 4 ♡ A Q 10 9 2 ♢ 10 7 ♣ K 10 8	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: three of diamonds.

The American in the West seat opened One Diamond and East raised to Two Diamonds. Terence Reese (South) competed with Two Hearts, which Boris Schapiro (North) raised to game.

The opening diamond lead was won with the queen. Reese drew trumps and cashed the ace of diamonds. He then led a small club from dummy to the ten and queen. West decided that his partner held the king of clubs, and anxious to avoid being on lead again he cashed his ace of clubs before playing a spade, permitting declarer to discard one of his losing spades on dummy's good clubs. West's defence was misguided: if declarer had three small clubs and AQx (or better) in spades, after West had cashed the ace of clubs declarer would still be able to make his contract by establishing dummy's long club.

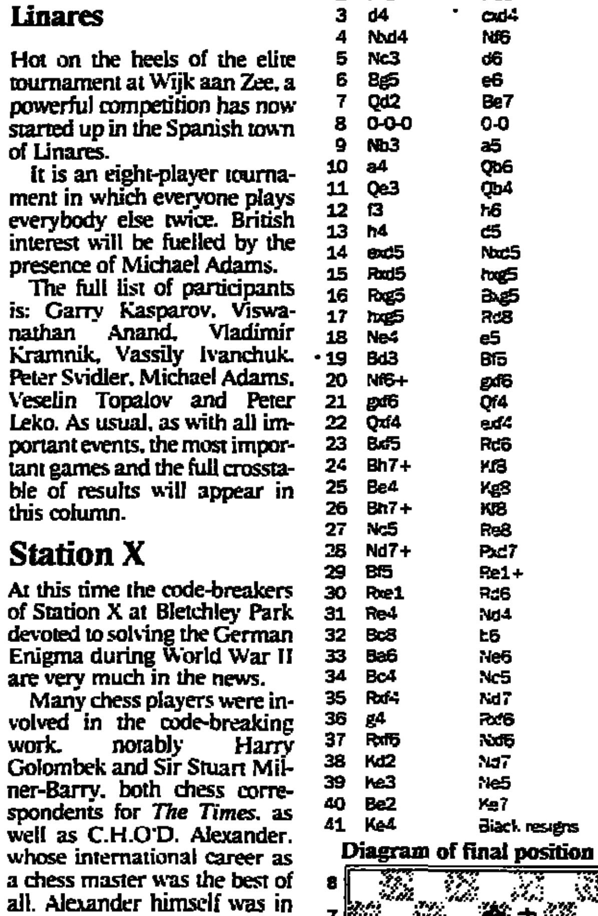
Adam Meredith (Great Britain) regarded almost any holding in the spade suit as biddable. Although this style put a considerable strain on his partner, who was seldom able to feel sure of Meredith's holding, it had the effect of making life very difficult for his opponents. On this hand Meredith was West, and opened One Spade. Leslie Dodds raised to Two Spades, which became the final contract and made exactly.

Meredith's attitude to the spade suit was by no means consistent. During the same match he held:

♠ J 10 6 4 2
♡ 9
♢ K 10 5
♣ J 6 4 2

His partner opened One Heart but, showing little confidence in his five-card spade suit, Meredith responded One No-Trump.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Linares

Hot on the heels of the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee, a powerful competition has now started up in the Spanish town of Linares.

It is an eight-player tournament in which everyone plays everybody else twice. British interest will be fuelled by the presence of Michael Adams.

The full list of participants is: Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand, Vladimir Kramnik, Vassily Ivanchuk, Peter Svidler, Michael Adams, Veselin Topalov and Peter Leko. As usual, as with all important events, the most important games and the full crosstable of results will appear in this column.

Station X

At this time the code-breakers of Station X at Bletchley Park devoted to solving the German Enigma during World War II are very much in the news.

Many chess players were involved in the code-breaking work, notably Harry Golombek and Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, both chess correspondents for *The Times*, as well as C.H.O'D. Alexander, whose international career as a chess master was the best of all. Alexander himself was in charge of Hut 8, devoted to cracking the German naval Enigma.

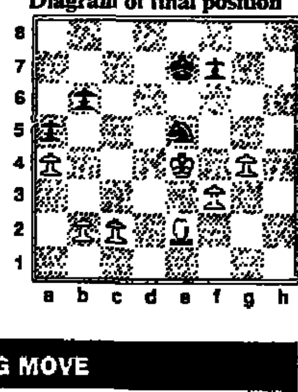
Here is a fine game won by Alexander against a leading European grandmaster.

White: C.H.O'D. Alexander
Black: Svetozar Gligoric
Staunton Memorial
Birmingham, 1951

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qd2	Be7
8	0-0-0	0-0
9	Nb3	a5
10	a4	Qb6
11	Qe3	Qb4
12	f3	h6
13	h4	d5
14	exd5	Nxd5
15	Rxd5	hxg5
16	Rxg5	Bxg5
17	hxg5	Rd8
18	Ne4	e5
19	Bd3	Bf5
20	Nf6+	gxf6
21	gxf6	Qf4
22	Qxf4	exf4
23	Bxf5	Rd6
24	Bh7+	Kf8
25	Be4	Kg8
26	Bh7+	Kf8
27	Nc5	Re8
28	Nd7+	Rxd7
29	Bf5	Re1+
30	Rxe1	Rd6
31	Re4	Nd4
32	Bc8	b6
33	Ba6	Ne6
34	Bc4	Nc5
35	Rxf4	Nd7
36	g4	Rxf6
37	Rxf6	Nxf6
38	Kd2	Nd7
39	Ke3	Ne5
40	Be2	Ke7
41	Ke4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Leadbetter adds to lustre of tour

LIFE moves on apace for the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT). Not a ball has been struck in this season's competitions but the activities of the organisation become ever faster and more furious (Mel Webb writes).

Announcements of some fresh initiative have become almost commonplace for the JGT, whose executive director, Colin Springate, is tireless in his crusade to make the golfing experiences of his young charges richer and more rewarding.

Cutter and Buck, the golf clothing manufacturers, join the JGT's portfolio of sponsors and will clothe all members of the tour this season. The JGT, run in association with *The Times*, already takes its players to some of the finest golf courses in the United Kingdom and this season adds The Belfry to its repertoire.

Names in golf do not come much bigger than that of David Leadbetter. As enthusiastic a patron as any organisation could have, he is taking his backing for the JGT one step further. The Prospects Tour, the circuit for players from the ages of 18 to 21 which embarks on its first season, will be known as the David Leadbetter Prospects Tour.

Entries close for the JGT on February 26 and for the David Leadbetter Prospects Tour on March 12. All applications for entry forms should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed A4 envelope and should be sent to: PO Box 3227, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8YN.

HOCKEY: LOUGHTONIANS LOSE FIREPOWER AS SOUTHGATE COMPLETE DOUBLE

Rott hat-trick ignites Southgate comeback

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

OLD LOUGHTONIANS generously entertained their sponsors and other guests at Chigwell yesterday, but the party was spoilt by Southgate, who *came from behind* twice to win the return National League premier division match 4-3. They had also won the previous game by the same score at Trent Park.

After scoring 11 goals in two matches last weekend, Old Loughtonians seemed to have *lost some of their firepower*. They made an encouraging start when Ingram put them ahead from Scott Smith's through pass in the 28th minute, but Rott levelled the score for Southgate from a short corner three minutes into the second half.

Smith converted a short corner five minutes later for a 2-1 lead which was soon erased by Rott, who completed his hat-trick after Moffatt had scored Southgate's third. Two minutes before the end Dover reduced the lead for Old Loughtonians.

Cannock, the title-holders and league leaders, also had to fight back for a 4-2 victory *at home to Canterbury*. Both sides were hit by injuries: Mathews and Hacker were missing from Canterbury and Cannock were without Johnson, Lewis and Thacker.

Humphries shot Canterbury into the lead in the 22nd minute, but Cannock hit back *twice just before the interval* with goals by Crutchley from a penalty stroke and Edwards from a short corner. Martin Jones, 18, scored Cannock's third goal and Crutchley the fourth from a short corner. Humphries obtained his second goal for Canterbury *eight minutes before the end*.

Reading finished a disappointing fifth in the B division of the European indoor club championship in Prague. The winners were Menzieshill of Scotland.

Cullen snatches vital point for Hightown

BY CATHY HARRIS

TINA CULLEN showed why she is the National League's all-time leading goalscorer when she steered Hightown to a 1-1 draw with Clifton on *Saturday. She struck* with a superb last-minute equaliser to help her side maintain their place in the top four of the premier division.

While Cullen was snatching a vital point for the Merseyside team, Jane Smith, her Great Britain team-mate, was *in prolific form, grabbing* six for Slough, the champions, as they beat Doncaster 9-1.

Ipswich remain top thanks to a brace of goals by Vicki Sandall in their 3-2 win away to Leicester and Sutton Coldfield moved clear of the relegation zone after beating Olton *in the Midlands derby*.

At Clifton, a slippery and very sandy artificial pitch saw conditions resemble the beach at Weston-super-Mare rather than a surface conducive to slick passing. The home team created enough chances to have sealed victory in the first half but their finishing was poor and although they took the lead in the 51st minute through Denise Marston-Smith, Cullen was always a threat, despite the close marking of Rachel O'Bryan.

Maggie Souyave, the England coach, was full of praise for Cullen's goal. "Her finish was clinical — she would have known how much time was left and it was critical she took the opportunity." Eluding O'Bryan, she latched on to a cross from Debbie Mills and executed a perfect chip over the goalkeeper.

Chelmsford moved to the top of the first division after two goals by Julie Parrott helped to beat Loughborough Students, and Woking, the only unbeaten side in the league, stretched their lead at the head of the second division by virtue of beating Hampton-in-Arden.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VERTICLE
a. A dog-cart
b. Passing through the zenith
c. A vertebra

YOUF
a. The midriff
b. A new boy at Westminster
c. A suppressed bark

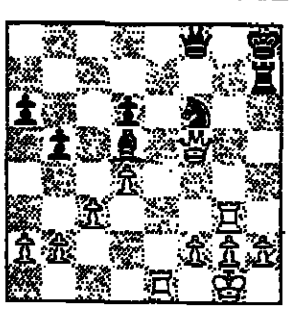
YUG
a. Bulgarian yoghurt
b. A mountain sledge
c. An epoch

VARICELLA
a. An Alpine plant
b. Chicken-pox
c. A wild Catalan dance

Answers on page 43

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play. This from the Schiller — Lobo game, San Francisco, 1998. A bishop and *knight are often a good match* for a rook, but here White's major pieces have excellent open lines. How did White conclude? **Solution on page 43** Winning Move on Thursday was incorrect. We apologise.



NETBALL

Siddall's gamble reaps reward

Cathy Harris talks to the England player determined to overcome South Africa again

IT HAS been 12 months that Naomi Siddall, the England defender, will neither regret nor forget. Since giving up a near-certain place in the women's Boat Race crew while in her final year at Cambridge University, Siddall's gamble to play netball for England has reaped rich dividends.

Selected for the Commonwealth Games team in Malaysia, she returned with a bronze medal after beating the World Cup silver medal-winners, South Africa. Tonight Siddall will be at the heart of the England defence when they take on the Springboks at the MEN Arena in Manchester, and at the end of this week she flies to New Zealand to play for a club in Invercargill in a cup competition.

Explaining her decision to give up rowing, Siddall said: "It was very difficult because I wanted to do both. But I was really committed to netball before the rowing took off and I love the team element. It was a calculated risk. Now it's a huge understatement to say how excited I am to be part of the England side."

Siddall, at 6ft, describes herself as a "big, strapping lass" and she is the ideal height to play goalkeeper or goal defence. The game also gives Siddall, 23, more opportunity than rowing to display individual flair. Once good enough to finish fifth in the English schools 400 metres hurdles final, Siddall also represented England at schools and under-21 levels at netball before making her senior debut.

"In rowing you're very much part of a team but everyone's doing the same stroke," Siddall said. "It's very technical. I didn't mind the routine of early-morning sessions and tough training but competing in both sports restricted my social life.

"Netball made its debut in the Games and it was a fantastic experience, especially as it's a multi-sport event. Beating the Springboks to win the bronze ended a long run of fourth places. Now we've set our sights on challenging the top two, Australia and New Zealand."

However, publicity, or lack of it, remains a contentious issue. With more than a million schoolchildren and at least 60,000 adults playing the game in this country, Siddall believes the sport deserves a higher profile. "We're lucky if we're featured on televison once a year," Siddall said. "In New Zealand, netball attracts as much coverage as the All Blacks rugby team, while in Australia club matches are televised every weekend."

Mary Beardwood, the England coach, believes Siddall, along with three team-mates, Amanda Newton, Helen Lonsdale and Olivia Murphy, will benefit greatly from their experience in New Zealand.

"I thought Siddall was outstanding against Wales last month," Beardwood said. "Exposure against top players will help mould her into the finished article."


Siddall: versatile

Avesta, the steelworks firm in Sheffield that sponsored her university career and has since taken on Siddall, has given her time off until after the world championship in Christchurch in September. Her thesis, in which she designed a database for engineers to choose bearings for projects, has commercial possibilities, but in the meantime she is happy to continue playing netball and is even considering taking up rowing again.

First there is the matter of beating South Africa again. The visiting team have made wholesale changes to their squad with Irene van Dyk, their world-class goalshooter, one of only four players retained from the side edged out by England for the bronze medal.

Siddall and her team-mates expect a tough, physical battle against opponents intent on revenge. England's chances have been boosted by Lorraine Law, their experienced goalshooter, recovering from an ankle ligament injury, but the side's other veteran shooter, Lyn Carpenter, has been ruled out with a similar injury.

In a surprise move, Beardwood has included two newcomers, the Derbyshire shooter, Alex Astle, 26, and the teenage defender, Sonia Mkoloma, whose impressive county performances this season have helped Middlesex to the top of the county championship.

After nearly a month in a training camp, England's display tonight will give them a clear indication of the progress they have made since Kuala Lumpur. Lottery funding has enabled at least half the squad to take up the sport full-time and concentrate on their preparations for Christchurch. Nothing less than a convincing victory will satisfy the team's ambitions.

ENGLAND (from): A Newton, L Law (both Essex Metropolitan), A Astle, K Aspinall, N Siddall, O Murphy (all Derbyshire), H Lonsdale, J Zinzan (captain), H Mansfor, S Mkoloma (all Middlesex), T Neville (Greater Manchester), L Stanley (North Durham)



MARTIN BEDDALL

Hockey now dominates the sporting outlook in Bethnal Green where once boxing was the talk of the playground

Inner city hooked on hockey

John Goodbody finds an East End college where football takes second place



Bethnal Green in the East End of London is an unlikely place to find a hotbed of hockey. You would think that boys would prefer sports such as football and boxing.

Indeed, the district's Technology College has produced such celebrated fighters as Michael Watson and John H. Stracey, a former world champion. The college is now 80 per cent Bangladeshi and, although India and Pakistan are renowned for their expertise in hockey, the Bengalis do not possess the same sporting pedigree.

Yet here is a school, hemmed in by blocks of flats, where hockey has an unusual status. They were national indoor under-16 champions in 1989, national outdoor champions at under-14 in 1995 and have been unbeaten in the Middlesex under-13 county championship since 1991.

For many years, the sports facilities were restricted to two playgrounds and two gyms, both the size of volleyball courts. However, last May, a £2.8 million sports hall was opened, jointly funded by the National Lottery and the Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The tradition of hockey was established 24 years ago, when the school switched from playing rugby in the spring term to concentrate on hockey, largely because the small size of many of the local boys prevented them from having evenly balanced rugby matches against other schools.

Within a year, the school was producing county players and the sport received additional impetus when Simon Blandford arrived in 1987 to coach. He galvanised the school just as British hockey was on the crest of its Olympic success.

Fred Whitehead, the self-effacing head of PE for 27 years, remembered him with evident affection. "I learnt so much," he said. "His contribution was enormous."

The school had to overcome other difficulties. The change in the local population brought an influx of Bengalis. Despite their size and much parental indifference, the pupils found that they excelled at hockey.

Whitehead said: "Bengalis have their centre of gravity in the right place. The smaller you are, the more you can buzz around." Bethnal Green also had a problem of fixtures. Few boys at state schools play the game, so matches had to be arranged against independent schools. Whitehead said that this gave his boys a different outlook on life. "Several of the kids had never been out of London until they had their first away game," he said.

Akbar Hussain, one of the three members of the South-East England Under-15 team last year, said: "We felt different when we linked up with the rest of the squad. We were the only Asians there and there was only one other state school represented." He admitted that when he started playing the game at the age of 11, he did not know there was such a sport as hockey.

Now he certainly knows. Several of the boys play for clubs: Masum Miah, a member of the England Under-16 squad, plays for Old Loughtonians and is now a candidate for a grant from the world class potential programme of the English Sports Council.

Masum started hockey at primary school and finds much of the positional play similar to football. So does Abdul Momin, a former member of the England Under-16 squad, who was approached by Arsenal but preferred to concentrate on hockey.

As Whitehead said: "Football is still king in the East End but it's amazing what success can do for another sport."

SAILING

Garside battles to stay in the hunt

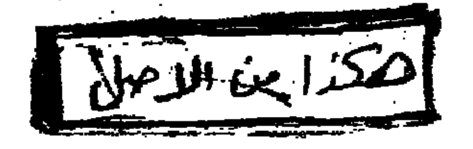
BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GARSIDE is now the only Briton left in the depleted Around Alone race fleet and, once again, he is fighting more to hold on to second place overall in Class 2 than being able to mount a serious threat to the class leader, J. P. Mouligne, of France.

Having been shown the way home in fine style by the Frenchman into Auckland, Garside, 54, was determined to get the better of him on the third leg through the Southern Ocean to Punte del Este in Uruguay. But two weeks into the leg, Mouligne, in the slower and older 50, *Cray Valley*, has built a lead of some 150 to 200 miles. Yesterday, with more than 1,000 miles still to sail to get round Cape Horn, Garside's *Magellan Alpha* was about 100 miles ahead of Brad van Liew's second generation Lyons-designed Open 50, *Balance Bar*.

Van Liew is sailing an even slower boat than Mouligne, but in the overall race he is hot on the Englishman's tail, having set off from Auckland with a deficit of only five hours. Both Mouligne and Garside know that they need a big cushion over Van Liew once they get round the Horn because Van Liew has proven upwind and light-air speed, and both fear that he could overhaul them if the going gets sticky up the South American coast.

Garside seems to be handling this Southern Ocean leg more comfortably than the last when he groaned at the discomfort and injustice of his plight. In the past few days he has raced through the path of what he called a "monster low" when the barometer on *Magellan* fell to 966 millibars — well within hurricane territory. The consequent damage included broken running backstays, which hold the mast up at the back of the boat, although fortunately not the set in action at the time.



RACING

Newcomers to the betting jungle proving easy prey

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE betting ring "revolution", which has seen on-course pitches changing hands for tens of thousands of pounds, is proving to be a chastening experience — for bookmakers rather than punters.

Racecourse rumours are rife about how some newcomers to the betting jungle are losing money regularly to punters and well established bookmakers through lack of knowledge and experience.

Shabab Ghauri, a Pakistan bookmaker who trades under the name of SG Sport Bookmakers, admitted yesterday that he has made a loss since splashing out £182,000 on pitches at Huntingdon, Lingfield, Yarmouth, Epsom, Warwick, Kempton, Towcester, Ascot and Cheltenham as well as rails positions at Southwell, Wolverhampton, Nottingham and Leicester.

Another new on-course business is reputed to have lost at 21 of the 23 meetings it has attended since buying betting pitches.

Although Ghauri would not go into detailed figures, he reportedly lost £23,000 at one all-weather fixture at Lingfield — and losing days at National Hunt meetings "which I find very difficult" have persuaded him to concentrate more on the Flat. "Some days have been bad," he said.

At the weekend, Ghauri offered for sale three of the pitches he bought only a few weeks ago — at Warwick, Huntingdon and Towcester. "I am selling them because they clash with other fixtures and I want to buy Flat pitches elsewhere."

An early baptism of fire, followed by a three-week absence from the racecourse, prompted some bookmakers to nickname his business "Soon Gone" but he laughed it off yesterday and explained he had to return to Pakistan for a family wedding.

Far from being downhearted, Ghauri is confident about the future and puts the early losses down to a learning curve, including understanding about betting-ring slang, such as "a monkey" (£500) and "a pony" (£25). "I am just trying to see my way through and try to understand the betting here. There are a few things which are different to where I come from."

He put his difficulties at Lingfield down to the weakness of the market. "I was trying to bet too big. You take a £6,000-£2,000 bet and you want to balance it with others but there is no money so you start raising the prices. There are some very clever and knowledgeable people here who understand the market and know more than I do."

Ghauri, 47, who also has an interest in a flourishing computer software business based at Milton Keynes and in Pakistan, added: "I am very confident. Even in Pakistan, when I started I lost for five or six years, and then I started to understand things and I did quite well over there."

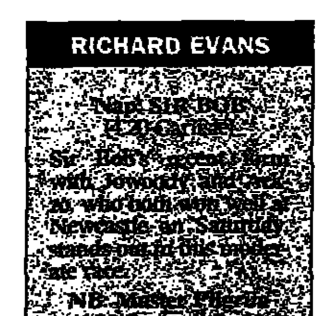
The experience of Ghauri and other recruits to the betting ring has strengthened the view of more experienced bookmakers — notably Victor Chandler — that there will be some early casualties as a result of introducing new blood into the ring.

One senior rails bookmaker said: "Contrary to what many people think, being an on-course bookmaker is not a passport to riches."

The Rails Bookmakers' Association, which has 46 members, is unlikely to be successful in its application to advertise prices on boards when it is discussed by the Levy Board on Wednesday. A decision to review its application — probably in a year's time — is the most likely outcome.

Flotation sunk, page 48

RICHARD EVANS



NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	113	70	68	2	-87.86
Mrs M Reveley	75	60	50	2	-3.00
P Nicholls	65	57	22	2	-34.15
P Hobbs	65	60	35	4	+10.82
D Nicholson	56	49	45	6	-42.58
Miss V Williams	48	25	26	2	+11.05

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	118	73	52	3	-101.09
R Johnson	93	92	92	3	-76.86
M A Fitzgerald	84	47	58	1	+9.56
N Williamson	80	52	45	3	+15.21
R Dunwoody	79	51	40	30	-38.83
T J Murphy	56	37	31	7	+158.88



Teeton Mill, nearside, vies for the lead with Senor El Betrutti on his way to an impressive victory at Ascot on Saturday

Teeton Mill wins more friends

By Richard Evans

TEETON MILL'S impressive success at Ascot on Saturday not only confirmed his status at the head of the market for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup — it also proved he is now the nation's favourite chaser.

In looks, the increasingly white ten-year-old resembles more and more the unforgettable Desert Orchid and, after the death of One Man at Aintree last April, the Venetia Williams-trained chaser is the new grey to have captured the hearts of racegoers.

He gained a special cheer after once again giving a faultless display of jumping to land the Mitsubishi Shogun Ascot Chase over an inadequate 2½ miles. The winner of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and the King George VI Chase has yet to make a jumping error in public this season but, just as important, he showed considerable speed to outgun some decent two and 2½-mile chasers over their favoured trip.

"Now I know I can ride him anywhere I want in a race because he has got the pace," Norman Williamson told Williams on dismounting. Coral was sufficiently impressed to make him clear 5-2 favourite, ahead of Florida Pearl. The Tote and William Hill just prefer the Irish-trained raider, while Ladbrokes offers 11-4 the pair.

Challenger Du Luc, who finished third, was disqualified and his rider, Timmy Murphy, banned for ten days for causing interference to Chief's Song going into Swinley Bottom. The nine-year-old's owner, David Johnson, was yesterday considering an appeal.

In contrast to Teeton Mill's performance, Unsinkable Boxer was far from impressive when just edging out Spendid at Warwick, where he made several unforced jumping errors.

Paul Green, who owns the Martin Pipe-trained runner, announced that Hors La Loi III, an expensive purchase from François Doumen's yard, is unlikely to run in the Elite Triumph Hurdle.

Four-timer gives Pollock title lead

Point-to-point
By Carl Evans

BEN POLLOCK returned to the head of the men's championship on Saturday when riding four winners and qualifying Castle Mane for Cheltenham's Foxhunter Chase at the **Brocklesby** meeting.

Pollock's successes were gained on horses trained by Caroline Bailey, whose tally for the day rose to five when William Wales added a maiden win on Tom De Savoie (7-4).

Castle Mane (2-7) was unimpressive in beating 11 rivals in the men's open — his stable said that he was "a bit flat" — and Pollock, 24, also won the confined race on My Shout (2-1) and two other divisions of the maiden on Vital (5-2) and Derryrose (4-1).

Tim Mitchell, with eight victories this season, is now one behind Pollock. Mitchell gained a solitary victory at the **United Services** meeting on the highly-impressive Satshoon. In the feature race at that meeting, the mixed open for the Coronation Cup, Skip 'N' Time and Michael Miller short-headed the odds-on favourite, Stag Fight, under Julian Pritchard.

Kelso-based Clive Storey added a single victory to his season's tally at the **Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire** meeting. His victory came on Faster Ron (evens), who disposed of two rivals in a disappointing men's open.

Storey was beaten but not disappointed when Royal Pass failed to catch Noluckmate (3-1) in the restricted. The winner formed part of a double for Airdrie owner-trainer Ronnie Bartlett, who also saddled Tipsy Laird to win the maiden. Both Bartlett's winners were ridden by Yorkshire-based Gary Coulter, 27, who hails from Co Antrim.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 Mithak
2.30 **HOLDIMCLOSE (nap)**
3.00 Lady Cricket
3.30 Selatan
4.00 Ela Agapi Mou
4.30 Derrymore Mist
5.00 Brandy Snap

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 **ELA AGAPI MOU.**

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 AMBERLEY CASTLE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,810: 2m 6f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 1/2P-1 ARCTIC CAMPER 99 (G) (Lady Harris) Miss V Williams 7-11-11 N Williamson 65
2 31 MITHAK 45 (S) (Mrs D Thompson) D Nicholson 5-11-11 R Johnson 75
3 -36PPP AMOTHEBAMBO 19 (B) (Mrs M Shenkin) R Baker 6-11-5 G Shenkin (5) 53
4 204 BALLYNABRAGGET 45 (Double Octagon Pinrs) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5 C Llewellyn —
5 61440P EPSILO DE LA RONCE 42 (G) (E Harvey) A H Harvey 7-11-5 J A McCarthy 80
6 -UF545 FOX RIDGE 24 (Coldharbour Racing Ltd) Miss S Edwards 7-11-5 L Aspell 86
7 MIDNIGHT MASTER (Popsi Partners) R Curtis 8-11-5 J Leech —
8 1312/0 ORPHAN OLLY 40 (F) (R York) R York 9-11-5 Mr P York —
9 60 PERTEMPS 79 (B) (Pertemps Group Ltd) A Streeter 6-11-5 J Goldstein (3) 11
10 434R4 ROSEY BOY 65 (Miss P Wilson & M Wilson) M Pitman 6-11-5 J Osborne [illegible]
11 00-P00 SPENCER STALLONE 74 (Roe Racing Ltd) G Roe 6-11-5 S Graham (7) 60
12 PP STATE FAIR 20 (Shake, Rattle & Roll) G Ham 5-11-5 S Burrough —
13 00U4 FOREST FLORA 27 (New Forest Racing Partnership) J Mullins 5-11-0 A Bates (3) 44

BETTING: 8-11 Arctic Camper, 5-2 Mithak, 10-1 Rosey Boy, 12-1 Ballynabragget, 20-1 Forest Flora, 25-1 others.

1998: NORDIC PRINCE 7-11-10 Michael Brennan (11-8) J O'Shea 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Arctic Camper beat Door To Door 2½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). Mithak beat Country Kris 6l in 17-runner maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Amothebambo pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, heavy). Ballynabragget 31l 4th of 8 to Abalvino in national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, heavy). Epsilo De La Ronce pulled up in novice hurdle at Fakenham (2m 4f, soft). Fox Ridge beaten a distance 5th of 7 to Perfect Fellow in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Orphan Olly beaten a distance 13th of 15 to Davoski in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, heavy). Pertemps 66l 7th of 11 to Tawafek in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f, good). Rosey Boy 18l 4th of 15 to Native Buck in novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, heavy). State Fair pulled up in novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Forest Flora 52l 4th to Eniyeus in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft).

ARCTIC CAMPER, a good winner at Cheltenham, should prove too strong for Mithak.

2.30 RENATE SERVICES NOVICES CHASE (£2,965: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

1 4-3212 HOLDIMCLOSE 25 (F,S) (Mrs C Loze) R Frost 9-11-12 J Frost [illegible]
2 4-3015 CIPRIANI QUEEN 53 (BF,C,F,G,S) (Tor Royal Racing Club) J Gifford 9-11-7 P Hide 86
3 10F602 BARTHOLOMEW FAIR 17 (F,S) (D Bowlett) C Dwyer 8-11-5 R Farrant —
4 0/2 FLEETING MANDATE 19 (Mrs P Sherwood) J S Moore 7-11-5 J Magee 59
5 46/5-3 OLD ARCHIVES 52 (F) (P Zetter) L Wells 10-11-5 W Greatrex (7) —
6 /32-56 ROMANCER 30 (B,G) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-5 C Llewellyn —
7 P1/PP2 ROYAL TOMMY 42 (B,S) (L Kimber) O Sherwood 7-11-5 J Osborne —
8 234/56 SIOUX TO SPEAK 21 (S) (Sioux Partnership) Mrs L Richards 7-11-5 M Richards 59
9 0003U6 SMART GUY 27 (Mrs P Donlon) Mrs L Jewell 7-11-5 T Peoples (7) 62
10 01/050 STORM DUST 72 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Tice) Miss H Knight 10-11-5 J Culloty —
11 /0-P0P SUPER NOVA 51 (W Dudley) C Hemsley 8-11-5 R Massey —
12 /0/35- A SUITABLE GIRL 296P (S Shinton) J Neville 8-11-0 R Johnson —

BETTING: 5-2 Romancer, 3-1 Holdimclose, 5-1 Storm Dust, 7-1 Bartholomew Fair, 8-1 Cipriani Queen, Royal Tommy, 10-1 Fleeting Mandate, 25-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Holdimclose 17l 2nd of 7 to Ardsuegh in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft). Cipriani Queen 21l last of 5 to John Drumm in amateur handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, heavy). Bartholomew Fair beaten a distance 2nd of 3 to Maredou in novice chase at Lingfield (2m, heavy). Fleeting Mandate 6l 2nd of 5 to Fighting Times in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, heavy). Old Archives beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Royal Predica in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, heavy). Romancer 43l 6th of 10 to Teaatral in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft). Royal Tommy beaten a distance 2nd of 8 to Drum Battle in novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Sioux To Speak 25l 6th of 8 to Rolicall in novice handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, soft). Smart Guy 23l 6th of 8 to Mr Jervis in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, soft). Storm Dust 56l 10th of 14 to Aizoomo in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). Super Nova pulled up in novice hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft). A Suitable Girl 58l 7th of 10 to Sophism in claiming hurdle at Stratford (2m 110yd, good).

HOLDIMCLOSE has taken well to fences and can make his experience tell against Romancer

3.00 NATIONAL SPIRIT HURDLE (£7,265: 2m 2f 110yd) (3 runners)

1 6-4113 TOTO TOSCATO 30 (S) (Mrs H Clarke) D Nicholson 5-12-0 A Maguire 111
2 0651-1 LADY CRICKET 10 (B,D,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-9 A P McCoy [illegible]
3 410221 LORD OF LOVE 17 (CD,S) (Mouse Racing) D Williams 4-10-7 B Clifford 101

BETTING: 4-7 Lady Cricket, 7-4 Toto Toscato, 12-1 Lord Of Love

1998: SHAHRUR 5-11-8 J R Kavanagh (11-8 fav) G L Moore 7 ran

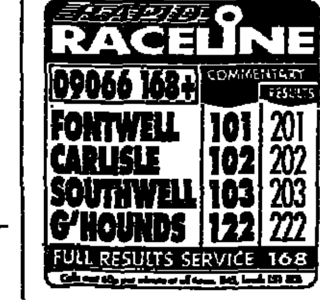
FORM FOCUS Toto Toscato 19l 3rd of 6 to Master Beveled in hurdle grade 2 at Haydock (2m, soft), previously beat City Hall ½l in 4-runner hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Lady Cricket beat Scoring Pedigree 9l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft), previously beat Palbatag Junction ¾l in 6-runner hurdle at Auteuil (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft) with Toto Toscato (2lb worse off) 4½l 4th. Lord Of Love beat Pagasonic 24l in 3-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy).

LADY CRICKET was most impressive at Newbury and can account for Toto Toscato

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
P Nicholls	26	54	48.1	J Osborne	12	44	27.3
Miss V Williams	8	22	36.4	A P McCoy	37	145	25.5
M Pipe	26	103	25.2	T J Murphy	15	60	25.0
R Buckler	18	77	23.4	D Gallagher	14	59	23.7
D Williams	5	22	22.7	N Williamson	13	56	23.2
Miss H Knight	6	30	20.0	J Culloty	6	27	22.2





3.30 JOHN ROGERSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,734: 3m 2f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 3-2246 RECTORY GARDEN 32 (D,G,S) (Earl Cadogan) H Daly 10-12-0 R Johnson 120
2 -22523 SPRING GALE 62 (BF,F,G,S) (M Crabb) O Sherwood 8-11-10 J Osborne 124
3 4F-P4P ST MELLION FAIRWAY 58 (G,S) (St Mellion Estates Ltd) M Pipe 10-11-8 A P McCoy 84
4 UP-262 NAZZARO 42 (B,BF,CD,S) (Gongolfin) W G M Turner 10-11-5 N Williamson 110
5 P-P52F JURASSIC CLASSIC 42 (CD,G,S) (B Seal) Mrs L Richards 12-11-5 M Richards 51
6 -F2P11 DANCETILLYOUDROP 25 (CD,S) (D Millard) P Nicholls 8-11-4 J Tizzard 117
7 14-355 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 32 (D,S) (N Lake) R Frost 10-10-12 J Frost [illegible]
8 6045U3 EASTHORPE 17 (B,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 11-10-12 M A Fitzgerald 123
9 011U3F SHANAGORE WARRIOR 7 (S) (S Tindall) S Mellor 7-10-4 C Webb 110
10 323-F2 SELATAN 24 (BF,G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 7-10-3 C Llewellyn 120
11 P44-0P NORTHERN VILLAGE 39F (F) (L Dace) L A Dace 12-10-0 D Burrows (5) —

BETTING: 9-2 Dancetillyoudrop, 5-1 Spring Gale, 6-1 Jurassic Classic, 13-2 Selatan, 7-1 Nazzaro, Shanagore Warrior, 8-1 St Mellion Fairway, 10-1 others.

1998: MAMMY'S CHOICE 8-10-11 A Thornton (7-4) R Alner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Spring Gale 24l 3rd of 7 to Nosy Miner in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good), previously 5l 2nd of 10 to Jefferies in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good) with Easthorpe (9lb better off) 14l 4th. St Mellion Fairway pulled up in handicap chase at Market Rasen (4m 1f, heavy); previously 44l 4th of 5 to River Lossie in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, soft). Dancetillyoudrop beat Rocky Park 2l in 7-runner amateur handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, soft); previously beat Nazzaro (12lb better off) beaten a distance in 6-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft) with Jurassic Classic (8lb better off) fell and Easthorpe (13lb better off) unseated rider. Pennymoor Prince 30l 5th of 11 to Zaggy Lane in handicap chase at Taunton (3m 3f, heavy) with Rectory Garden (3lb worse off) 31l 6th. Easthorpe 17l 3rd of 4 to Raolb in handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, heavy). Shanagore Warrior fell in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Selatan 5l 2nd of 4 to Mystic Isle in handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft) with Shanagore Warrior (4lb better off) 21l 3rd. Northern Village pulled up in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy).

PENNYMOOR PRINCE failed to last home in heavy ground last time and can return to form

4.00 LADBROKE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£5,277: 2m 6f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 1310P3 ELA AGAPI MOU 10 (B,C,F,G,S) (Action) G L Moore 6-12-0 M Batchelor (5) [illegible]
2 50P0-0 HARBOUR ISLAND 73 (F) (M Jones) M Pipe 7-11-8 A P McCoy 105
3 242-21 MASTER PILGRIM 14 (C,S) (Winning Line) Miss V Williams 7-11-6 N Williamson 120
4 0/602- RUSTY REEL 419 (S) (O Stokes) W G M Turner 9-10-12 J Power (7) —
5 12P/4- WEE WINDY 481 (CD,F,G,S) (W Gale) J Gifford 10-10-11 P Hide —
6 01/46P PALOSANTO 20 (V,D,F,G,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 9-10-10 R Greene —
7 53F-25 ATLANTIC MIST 32 (BF,G) (Wardour Partnership) B Millman 6-10-1 D Salter 76

BETTING: 10-11 Master Pilgrim, 9-2 Ela Agapi Mou, 5-1 Atlantic Mist, 8-1 Palosanto, 12-1 Harbour Island, 14-1 Wee Windy, 33-1 Rusty Reel

1998: FLAXLEY WOOD 7-10-13 B Powell (3-1) R Buckler 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Ela Agapi Mou 9¾l 3rd of 9 to Lady Cricket in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft). Harbour Island 32l 5th of 11 to Brave Tornado in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to soft). Master Pilgrim beat Jacdor 19l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Rusty Reel 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Lord Rullah in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Wee Windy 24l last of 4 to Caravadan in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Palosanto pulled up in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously 51l 6th of 9 to Saxon Duke in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, heavy). Atlantic Mist 24l 5th of 7 to Vent D'Aout in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, heavy).

MASTER PILGRIM has improved since joining Venetia Williams and looks well treated

4.30 HOLLY TREE NOVICES CHASE (£2,803: 3m 2f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 F1-112 DERRYMORE MIST 73 (G,S) (J Hordle & D Millard) P Nicholls 7-12-4 Mr T Mitchell 108
2 /15-21 JOCKS CROSS 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs G Harrison) Miss V Williams 8-11-11 N Williamson [illegible]
3 R1-33F FRENCHY MALTA 14 (S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 6-11-4 A P McCoy 109
4 P GOOD SHOW 7 (Mrs S Logan) D Williams 9-11-4 B Powell —
5 121-P2 MR MILLER 21 (S) (P & P Flaherty) T Casey 7-11-4 J Osborne 100
6 050-F3 THE TEN AMIGOS 21 (Hove Racing Club) R Rowe 8-11-4 Mr T Cloke 73
7 -45310 TOP SKIPPER 25 (G,S) (R Dunn) B Millman 7-11-4 D Salter —
8 P1-4P4 GUIGNOL DU COCHET 30 (Guignol Pinrs) Mrs L Richards 5-11-0 J A McCarthy —

BETTING: 6-4 Jocks Cross, 3-1 Derrymore Mist, 5-1 Frenchy Malta, 6-1 Mr Miller, 7-1 The Ten Amigos, 20-1 Top Skipper, 33-1 Guignol Du Cochet, 50-1 Good Show

1998: TOROUFF EXPRESS 7-11-9 Mr J Tizzard (4-9 fav) P Nicholls 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Derrymore Mist 8l 2nd of 4 to Spendid in novice chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Jocks Cross beat Garrison Friendly beaten a distance in 9-runner novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft) with Frenchy Malta (7lb better off) fell. Good Show pulled up in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Mr Miller 26l 2nd of 5 to Military Academy in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft). The Ten Amigos 22l 3rd of 8 to Rolicall in novice handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, soft). Top Skipper 31l 7th of 12 to Seize The Day in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, soft), previously beat Pashto ... in 11-runner selling handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft). Guignol Du Cochet beaten a distance last of 4 to Flagship Uberalles in novice chase at Kempton (2m, soft).

DERRYMORE MIST was not disgraced when runner-up to Spendid at Cheltenham and will find this easier

5.00 DONCASTER BLOODSTOCK SALES/EBF MARES STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (£1,557: 2m 2f 110yd) (17 runners)

1 0-1 LADY MARLOW 72 (S) (Moore, Stephens) Miss V Williams 5-11-10 N Williamson 48
2 BRANDY SNAP (Queen Elizabeth) N Henderson 5-11-3 M A Fitzgerald —
3 DAYS DESTINY (Adam Day) J Mullins 5-11-3 A Bates (3) —
4 8 DEEP PASSION 18 (F Lynch) C Hemsley 7-11-3 Miss A Dudley (7) —
5 55 DOCTOR ROSE 55 (N Elliott) R Buckler 5-11-3 B Powell 73
6 ELEGANT MAUD (G Roe) G Roe 5-11-3 S Graham (7) —
7 25- GOLDEN ROSE 422 (A Khaled) T McGovern 7-11-3 C Murray (7) —
8 3 GULSHAN 10 (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 C Llewellyn 59
9 HOTTENTOT (J White) J Old 6-11-3 T J Murphy —
10 JAN'S DREAM (Mrs J A Cheney) P R Webber 5-11-3 J Osborne —
11 4-00 MAYBE LATER 53 (Team Murphy) R Curtis 7-11-3 J Leech 48
12 0 MISS SCARLETT 157 (B Tetley) Mrs P Tetley 6-11-3 M Richards —
13 0 OUR LOTTIE 18 (J Hoare) S Knight 7-11-3 S Burrough 15
14 CASA FIORI (T Fiorillo) C Barwell 4-10-6 R Johnson —
15 LADY LILIAN (P Trant) M Madgwick 4-10-6 A Maguire —
16 LOST THE PLOT (Kennel Partnership) D Arbuthnot 4-10-6 D Gallagher —
17 2 MILADY ANA 45 (BF) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 4-10-6 R Massey [illegible]

BETTING: 6-4 Milady Ana, 3-1 Lady Marlow, 7-2 Brandy Snap, 6-1 Gulshan, 14-1 Hottentot, 16-1 Lost The Plot, 20-1 Jan's Dream, 25-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Lady Marlow beat Dorans Grove 7l in 7-runner mares national hunt flat at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft). Brandy Snap Broadsword mare, half-sister to winning sprinter Double Brandy. Days Destiny Marsden mare out of a lightly-raced mare. Doctor Rose 15l 5th of 12 to Crack Shot in mares national hunt flat at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). Elegant Maud Shardari mare, half-sister to a winner on the Flat and a NH Flat winner. Golden Rose 24l 5th of 20 to Cottage Girl in mares national hunt flat at Limerick (2m, heavy). Gulshan 3l 3rd of 16 to Elegant City in mares national hunt flat at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Hottentot Sula Bula mare, half-sister to winning chaser Luke Warm. Jan's Dream Executive Perk mare out of a moderate racemare. Maybe Later 29l 9th of 20 to Perk Alert in national hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, soft). Miss Scarlett 33l 11th of 12 to Everest Crusader in national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, firm). Our Lottie 31l 7th of 14 to The Hell Hoe Mowed in national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, soft) with Deep Passion (levels) beaten a distance 13th. Casa Fiori Spanish Place filly, half-sister to a winner on the flat. Lady Lilian Cliburn filly out of flat winner Lovable Lady. Lost The Plot Lyphento filly, half-sister to 7f winner My Lucky Chat. Milady Ana 6l 2nd of 14 to Dandy Duff in national hunt flat race at Ludlow (2m, good to soft).

MILADY ANA stayed on strongly at Ludlow and should appreciate today's extra two furlongs

Blinkered first time

CARLISLE: 2.20 Rye Rum. 2.50 Oat Couture. 4.20 Just An Excuse. FONTWELL PARK: 2.00 Pertemps. 4.00 Pelosanto. SOUTHWELL: 2.10 Perchancer. 2.40 Second Term.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot

Going: good (good to soft in places)

1.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, **Lord Of The River** (J Osborne, 7-4 fav); 2, Collier Bay (11-2); 3, Andsuephi (4-1). 6 ran. 15l, 28l. O Sherwood. Tote: £2.80; £1.40, £2.10. DF: £4.90. CSF: £10.05.

1.50 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Ismeno** (P Holley, 8-1); 2, Polar Prospect (20-1); 3, Bluedonix (15-2). Darbela 9-2 fav. 12 ran. 6l, 7l. D Elsworth. Tote: £9.80; £2.60, £4.20, £1.80. DF: £63.10. CSF: £142.38. Tricast: £1,142.09.

2.25 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Teeton Mill** (N Williamson, 6-4 fav); 2, Senor El Betrutti (25-1); 3, Super Coin (9-2). 7 ran. 4l, ½l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £4.80. DF: £15.40. CSF: £27.51. Challenger Du Luc finished 3rd but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified.

2.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Buckside** (M A Fitzgerald, 1-2 fav); 2, Renzo (11-2); 3, Santabless (13-2). 7 ran. NR: Hoh Invader. 9l, 3½l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £2.70. DF: £3.00. CSF: £3.78.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, **Rockforce** (J Tizzard, 3-1); 2, Gris d'Estruval (6-4 fav); 3, Royal Predica (9-1). 5 ran. 4l, 7l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.50; £1.80, £1.50. DF: £4.30. CSF: £7.75.

4.05 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Magic Combination** (J P Spencer, 9-4 fav); 2, Alka International (8-1); 3, Winston Run (11-4). 7 ran. 5l, 6l. B Curley. Tote: £3.20; £1.90, £2.80. DF: £8.50. CSF: £17.23.

4.40 (2m 110yd flat) 1, **Wood Hall** (D Gallagher, 14-1); 2, Canasta (2-1 fav); 3, Roman Lord (9-2). 14 ran. NR: The Bizz. 4l, 9l. S Sherwood. Tote: £26.30; £5.60, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £39.00. CSF: £40.45.

Placepot: £99.50. Quadpot: £12.90.

Newcastle

Going: good to soft (good in places)

1.35 1, **Chief Wardance** (5-1); 2, Big Atoll (7-2); 3, My Desperado (11-4 fav). 20 ran. NR: Coolamil, Lipstick Red.

2.10 1, **Ackzo** (10-11 fav); 2, Corporation Pop (7-1); 3, Roi De La Chasse (8-1). 19 ran.

2.45 1, **Listen Timmy** (7-1); 2, Tullymurry Toff (9-2); 3, Sparky Gayle (9-2). All The Aces 4-1 fav. 10 ran.

3.20 1, **Robbo** (7-4 fav); 2, Cottstown Boy (10-1); 3, Lord Richfield (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Jamaican Flight.

3.50 1, **Hollybank Buck** (10-1); 2, Full of Oats (8-1); 3, Feels Like Gold (14-1). Young Kenny (f) 9-4 fav. 15 ran.

4.20 1, **Aghawadda Gold** (8-11 fav); 2, Bemburgh Boy (3-1); 3, Dan De Man (11-2). 5 ran.

4.50 1, **Jowoody** (15-8 fav); 2, Viprano (13-2); 3, D'Arblay Street (25-1); 4, Aljadale (25-1). 22 ran. NR: Pilkington.

Warwick

Going: good to soft

2.05 1, **Young Spartacus** (2-1 fav); 2, Forever Noble (6-1); 3, Tonka (11-2). 8 ran.

2.35 1, **Young Radical** (25-1); 2, Phar Less Hassle (5-1); 3, Handy Lass (9-1). Ardfinnan 9-2 fav. 12 ran.

3.05 1, **Unsinkable Boxer** (2-5 fav); 2, Spendid (5-2); 3, Edmond (16-1). 4 ran.

3.40 1, **Behrajan** (13-8 fav); 2, Irish Banker (15-2); 3, King's Road (4-1). 5 ran.

4.10 1, **Flagship Uberalles** (9-4); 2, Tresor De Mai (1-3 fav). 2 ran.

4.40 1, **The Outback Way** (9-4); 2, Tamarindo (7-4 fav); 3, With Impunity (9-2). 5 ran.

5.10 1, **Toggi Dancer** (7-1); 2, Bao Des Singes (20-1); 3, Carried Interest (12-1). Mister Graham 2-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Arctic Knight, Kates Tight Jeans.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.00 1, **Star Rage** (14-1); 2, Hank (7-2); 3, Far Cry (10-11 fav). 5 ran. NR: Philosophic.

2.30 1, **Compton Aiden** (4-5 fav); 2, Village Native (15-1); 3, Pericles (9-4). 6 ran.

3.00 1, **Barbason** (9-4); 2, Soaking (14-1); 3, Lady Caroline (6-1). Alamein 10-11 fav. 6 ran.

3.35 1, **Kaye Gee** (7-4 fav); 2, Trojan Girl (15-8); 3, Prince Prospect (15-8). 4 ran.

4.05 1, **Trawling** (2-7 fav); 2, Lady Irene (8-1); 3, Manana (12-1). 5 ran.

4.35 1, **Bartholomew** (4-5 fav); 2, Polly Mills (7-1); 3, Glastonbury (20-1). 6 ran.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

7.00 1, **Live To Tell** (5-1); 2, Diamond Blush (9-1); 3, Compton Amber (8-11 fav). 7 ran.

7.30 1, **Mutahadeth** (4-1); 2, Slip Jig (7-2); 3, Feel A Line (16-1). Fayim 9-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Hi Mujtahid.

8.00 1, **Hever Golf Glory** (14-1); 2, Baron De Pichon (7-4 fav); 3, Mono Lady (20-1). 7 ran.

8.30 1, **Dargo** (5-2 fav); 2, Harvey White (6-1); 3, Infamous (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Mach One.

9.00 1, **The Wild Widow** (7-2); 2, Top Floor (3-1); 3, Crofters Edge (9-1). Sapsford 9-4 fav. 13 ran.

9.30 1, **Isabella Gonzaga** (13-2); 2, Copper Shell (9-4 fav); 3, Half Tide (5-2). 11 ran.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

1.50 Konker. 2.20 Mr Frangipani. 2.50 Well Appointed. 3.20 The Next Waltz. 3.50 Dovetto. 4.20 Sir Bob.

GOING: HEAVY (8AM INSPECTION) SIS

1.50 TARTAN TAILOR & LORD GREYSTOKE JUVENILE HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,346: 2m 1f) (10 runners)

1 13 ELLERBECK 51 (CD,F) J Jefferson 10-13 L Wyer 54
2 30 BARRELBIO 17 J J O'Neill 10-12 R McGrath 59
3 3P4F COURT ORDEAL 28 R N Bevis 10-12 Mr R Forristal (5) 70
4 050 HAPPY DAYS 52 D Moffatt 10-12 D J Moffatt 27
5 420 KING'S HUSSAR 17 (V) G M Moore 10-12 N Hannity (5) [illegible]
6 50 KONKER 17 G M Moore 10-12 R Guest 52
7 3556 MAAZOOM 17 M Sowersby 10-12 A Dobbin 54
8 0 STACCATO 5 D Smith 10-12 J Callaghan —
9 CAMPARI 68F Mrs A Naughton 10-7 J Supple —
10 03 GOLDENGIRLMICHELLE 9 F Murphy 10-7 I Jardine (7) 61

5-2 Ellerbeck, 7-2 Maazoom, 4-1 King's Hussar, 6-1 Goldengirlmichelle, 13-2 Barrelbio, 8-1 Court Ordeal, 16-1 Konker, 25-1 others.

2.20 HALLO DANDY & MAN ALIVE NOVICES CHASE (£3,965: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1 14FP BOLD ACTION 6 (D,F,S) J Turner 8-11-11 T Reed 97
2 2413 MR FRANGIPANI 9 (S) N Richards 8-11-11 A Dobbin [illegible]
3 423F AREN'T WE LUCKY 21 J J O'Neill 6-11-4 R McGrath —
4 U1-P BALLYBRIT 20 (G,S) V Thompson 10-11-4 Mr M Thompson —
5 3-30 CHARMING ADMIRAL 70 (B,S) Mrs S Swinbank 6-11-4 J Supple —
6 P0U5 CHIEF CHIPPIE 18 (B) W Kemp 6-11-4 B Storey 20
7 -33P DISTINCT 9 A Whillans 6-11-4 I Jardine (7) —
8 520- MAJOR HARRIS 387 (D,F) M Hammond 7-11-4 B Harding —
9 P324 MANHATTAN RAINBOW 20 Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-4 Mr J Crowley (5) 77
10 003- MR BRUNO 380 M Barnes 6-11-4 S Taylor —
11 1226 PALACE OF GOLD 51 (BF,F,G,S) L Lungo 9-11-4 R Supple —
12 2-PP RYE RUM 52 (V) J Aynsley 8-11-4 D Parker —
13 PP- TWELVE BORE 294 S Brookshaw 8-11-4 C Maude —
14 0U60 WHAT'S THE BUZZ 16 Mrs S Smith 8-11-4 R Wilkinson (5) 74
15 P-FP YELAPA PRINCE 68 (D,S) F Kirby 8-11-4 K Johnson —
16 0PUU SHONARA'S WAY 9 (D,G,S) P Monteith 8-10-13 C McCormack (3) —

7-4 Mr Frangipani, 7-2 Aren't We Lucky, 5-1 Manhattan Rainbow, 6-1 Palace Of Gold, 10-1 Bold Action, 14-1 Distinct, 20-1 Chief Chippie, Major Harris, 25-1 others.

2.50 TWIN OAKS & FOUR TRIX HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,706: 2m 1f) (8)

1 1434 PALACEGATE KING 31 (CD,S) A Whillans 10-11-10 I Jardine (7) 97
2 1-06 HOUSE OF DREAMS 9 (D,F,G) G M Moore 7-11-9 B Harding 112
3 1383 VALEDICTORY 84 (BF,CD,S) P Monteith 6-11-9 C McCormack (3) 97
4 1215 FINEWOOD 9 (BF,S) J Jefferson 5-11-5 L Wyer 105
5 4265 OAT COUTURE 9 (B,G,S) L Lungo 11-10-13 R Supple 87
6 14-3 WELL APPOINTED 23 (CD,F,G,S) B Mactaggart 10-10-10 G Lee [illegible]
7 1341 JUST LIZZIE 30 (S) R Nixon 6-10-0 N Horrocks (5) [illegible]
8 P03P ALLERBECK 17 J Goulding 9-10-0 L Cooper (7) 70

5-2 Palacegate King, 11-4 Finewood, 5-1 Valedictory, 6-1 House Of Dreams, 7-1 Well Appointed, 9-1 Oat Couture, 14-1 Just Lizzie, 50-1 Allerbeck.

3.20 PLAYLORD & TITUS OATES HANDICAP CHASE (£5,524: 3m 2f) (7)

1 1111 BETTER TIMES AHEAD 105 (CD,F,G,S) N Richards 13-12-0 A Dobbin 133
2 2/4- FULL OF FIRE 296 (F,S) N Richards 12-11-11 Mr J Crowley (5) 84
3 213P NAUGHTY FUTURE 2 (G,S) J J O'Neill 10-11-8 R McGrath 128
4 3542 PARSONS BOY 37 (C,G,S) N Richards 10-11-5 B Harding [illegible]
5 2212 THE NEXT WALTZ 21 (BF,F,G,S) L Lungo 8-10-4 R Supple 115
6 134F TRUE SCOT 9 (B,S) J Wade 9-10-0 C McCormack (3) 79
7 F333 KIBBY BANK 30 J Howard Johnson 10-10-0 D Parker 112

7-4 The Next Waltz, 5-2 Better Times Ahead, 5-1 Parsons Boy, 7-1 True Scot, 10-1 Naughty Future, 14-1 Full Of Fire, 16-1 Kibby Bank.

3.50 LITTLE BAY & NODDYS RYDE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,931: 2m) (7)

1 522U SCRAHAN CROSS 2 (S) J J O'Neill 6-12-0 R McGrath [illegible]
2 2351 LAGEN BRIDGE 9 (D,S) D Moffatt 10-11-7 D J Moffatt 98
3 332U INDEPENDENT GREY 70 Mrs S Smith 8-10-11 Mr J Crowley (5) 94
4 F64P TURKISH TOWER 9 (S) R Nixon 8-10-4 S Taylor 94
5 4440 JUNE'S RIVER 6 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-1 Mr A Dempsey (3) 88
6 4444 DOVETTO 10 (S) C J Price 10-10-0 L Cummins (3) 90
7 PPPP SUL FOSSO 58 Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 R Wilkinson (5) —

9-4 Lagen Bridge, 7-2 Scrahan Cross, Dovetto, 5-1 June's River, 6-1 Independent Grey, 16-1 Turkish Tower, 25-1 Sul Fosso.

4.20 ONE MAN & CLEVER FOLLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,472: 3m 110yd) (10)

1 0-12 JUST AN EXCUSE 21 (B,BF,CD,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-11 R McGrath [illegible]
2 /313 SIR BOB 23 (D,S) W McKeown 7-11-11 C McCormack (3) 92
3 1553 STEWARTS PRIDE 16 (B,D,S) S Brookshaw 6-11-11 C Maude 89
4 0000 KARADEM 20 R Hollinshead 5-11-5 Gary Lyons 42
5 -04U RIVER DOUGLAS 17 Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-5 Mr C Wilson —
6 00PP STEPHEN'S BRAE 9 N Richards 7-11-5 A Dobbin 48
7 /0-P UNFORGETABLE 9 J J O'Neill 7-11-5 L Cooper (7) —
8 0P0P DOUBLE BUCK 31 (B,D,S) W Kemp 7-11-0 B Storey 55
9 -04P SUPREME SPICE 58 F Murphy 6-11-0 Mr J P McNamara (5) 65
10 P0-0 TWIN PLEASURES 18 J Bewley 5-11-0 S Taylor 21

11-10 Sir Bob, 2-1 Just An Excuse, 3-1 Stewarts Pride, 12-1 River Douglas, 14-1 Twin Pleasures, 16-1 others.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.10 Bebe Cosmonaut. 2.40 Alsahib. 3.10 Anita At Dawn. 3.40 Bahamian Pirate. 4.10 Bold Aristocrat. 4.40 Migwar.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.10 ADRIATIC MAIDEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,295: 1m) (15 runners)

101 226- TANCRED ARMS 118 D Barker 9-7 T Williams 13
102 00-2 SUHAIL 24 P Gilligan 9-4 G Carter 9
103 4323 PERCHANCER 23 (V,BF) P Haslam 9-4 P Goode (5) 12
104 05-5 MIRAGGIO 44 H Morrison 9-2 C Rutter 15
105 4-30 BEBE COSMONAUT 27 A Newcombe 9-1 S Drowne 8
106 0-50 STANLEY WIGFIELD 7 D Nicholls 8-12 Alex Greaves 4
107 52-2 THE LAST WORD 18 R Hollinshead 8-8 D Sweeney 11
108 05-6 TIME ON MY HANDS 21 C Thornton 8-8 Dean McKeown 14
109 5430 SHARP RHYTHM 12 M Johnston 8-5 J Fanning 7
110 -345 MISS DOODYBUSINESS 17 C Thornton 8-2 P Doe (3) 6
111 00-0 WHO GOES THERE 18 T M Jones 8-1 N Carlisle 10
112 5-06 ELEANOR RIGBY 32 M Johnston 7-13 G Bardwell 5
113 -552 FOURTH TIME LUCKY 21 B Murray 7-11 A Polli (3) 1
114 0-00 SILK WING 16 T Clement 7-10 Declan O'Shea 3
115 R80- TAURUS BAY 215 Ron Thompson 7-10 J Lowe 2

9-2 Suhail, 11-2 Perchancer, 6-1 The Last Word, 7-1 Miss Doodybusiness, 8-1 Tancred Arms, 10-1 Bebe Cosmonaut, Stanley Wigfield, Fourth Time Lucky, 12-1 others.

2.40 BALTIC CLAIMING STAKES (£2,083: 1m 4f) (7)

201 -243 ALSAHIB 33 (C,D) W Muir 6-9-7 Martin Dwyer 6
202 -011 MOONRAKING 10 (B,CD) Miss S Wilton 6-9-7 J Savage (7) 5
203 346- TONNERRE 30J (S) K Morgan 7-9-3 L Newton 4
204 2/0 ZAHIR 7 R Marvin 5-9-1 T G McLaughlin 7
205 00-0 SECOND TERM 14 (V) W Storey 4-8-3 T Williams 1
206 0-00 LAKE ARIA 14 J Eyre 6-8-2 L Charnock 2
207 600- FLOWERS COVE 124 K Bridgwater 4-7-11 A Daly (3) 3

4-5 Moonraking, 7-4 Alsahib, 8-1 Tonnerre, 20-1 Zahir, 25-1 others.

3.10 CASPIAN FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,111: 7f) (9)

301 -006 ANITA AT DAWN 9 (CD,S) B Palling 4-10-0 G Faulkner (3) 8
302 -201 MAI TAI 21 (CD) D Barker 4-9-6 T Williams 2
303 55-1 LADY PEPPIATT 28 (C) J S Moore 3-8-8 P P Murphy (3) 6
304 -031 ANNIE APPLE 34 (D,F) D Nicholls 3-8-5 A Nicholls (5) 7
305 030- MARCH PARTY 167 (D) J Portman 3-8-3 P Doe (3) 5
306 60-3 RIVER ENSIGN 3 (C,G,S) W Brisbourne 6-8-0 P Bradley (7) 4
307 0654 KANAWA 10 A P Jones 5-7-12 F Norton 3
308 0506 SING FOR ME 12 R Hollinshead 4-7-11 P M Quinn (7) 9
309 000- MISS SHANNON 156 R Fahey 4-7-10 P Hanagan (7) 1

11-4 Mai Tai, 7-2 Lady Peppiatt, 4-1 Annie Apple, 6-1 River Ensign, 8-1 Kanawa, 10-1 March Party, 12-1 Sing For Me, 16-1 others.

3.40 HUDSON BAY MAIDEN STAKES (£2,723: 6f) (6)

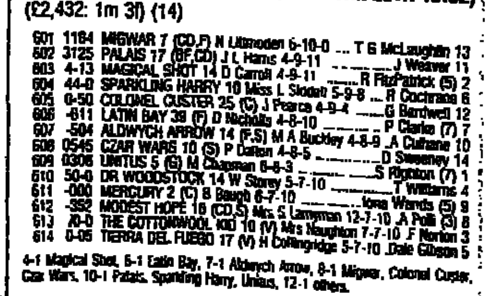
401 -005 ABOVE BOARD 14 R Marvin 4-9-10 S Righton (7) 2
402 6-43 BAHAMIAN PIRATE 10 D Nicholls 4-9-10 Alex Greaves 4
403 624- DAZZLING STONE 139 C Fairhurst 5-9-10 I Grantham (7) 5
404 -035 SCURRILOUS 10 J L Harris 4-9-5 Dean McKeown 3
405 FAS J Bethell 3-8-9 A Culhane 6
406 330- ASHOVER AMBER 178 T Barron 3-8-4 J Fanning 1

6-4 Bahamian Pirate, 11-4 Ashover Amber, 5-1 Fas, 6-1 Scurrilous, 8-1 Dazzling Stone, 20-1 Above Board.

4.10 PERSIAN GULF STAKES (£1,856: 6f) (8)

501 6221 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 3 (CD) R Hollinshead 8-9-12 P M Quinn (7) 1
502 5346 AWESOME VENTURE 3 (C,S) M Chapman 9-9-7 S Righton (7) 7
503 2635 ICE AGE 12 (B,CD,F) R Williams 5-9-7 R Cochrane 8
504 050- LANCASHIRE LEGEND 58 W Brisbourne 6-9-7 P Bradley (7) 2
505 4030 LITTLE IBNR 3 (V,CD,F) P Evans 8-9-7 J P Spencer (3) 6
506 0/00 LOCHON 12 (V,D,F,S) T Watson 8-9-7 Kimberley Hart (5) 3
507 4430 MOST RESPECTFUL 14 (BF,CD,F) N Tinkler 6-9-7 Kim Tinkler 5
508 0/0- NAMPARA BAY 62 J Hetherton 5-9-2 A Culhane 4

6-4 Bold Aristocrat, 5-1 Ice Age, Little Ibnr, 6-1 Awesome Venture, Most Respectful, 8-1 Lancashire Legend, 25-1 Nampara Bay, 50-1 Lochon.



4.40 BERING HANDICAP (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£2,432: 1m 3f) (14)

601 1164 MIGWAR 7 (CD,F) N Littmoden 6-10-0 T G McLaughlin 13
602 3125 PALAIS 17 (BF,CD) J L Harris 4-9-11 J Weaver 11
603 4-13 MAGICAL SHOT 14 D Carroll 4-9-11 R FitzPatrick (5) 2
604 44-0 SPARKLING HARRY 10 Miss L Siddall 5-9-8 R Cochrane 6
605 0-50 COLONEL CUSTER 25 (C) J Pearce 4-9-4 G Bardwell 12
606 -611 LATIN BAY 39 (F) D Nicholls 4-8-10 P Clarke (7) 7
607 -504 ALDWYCH ARROW 14 (F,S) M A Buckley 4-8-9 A Culhane 10
608 0545 CZAR WARS 10 (S) P Dalton 4-8-5 D Sweeney 14
609 0306 UNITUS 5 (G) M Chapman 6-8-3 S Righton (7) 1
610 50-0 DR WOODSTOCK 14 W Storey 5-7-10 T Williams 4
611 -000 MERCURY 2 (C) B Baugh 6-7-10 Iona Wands (5) 9
612 -352 MODEST HOPE 16 (CD,S) Mrs S Lamyman 12-7-10 A Polli (3) 8
613 J0-0 THE COTTONWOOL KID 10 (V) Mrs Naughton 7-7-10 F Norton 3
614 0-05 TIERRA DEL FUEGO 17 (V) H Collingridge 5-7-10 Dale Gibson 5

4-1 Magical Shot, 5-1 Latin Bay, 7-1 Aldwych Arrow, 8-1 Migwar, Colonel Custer, Czar Wars, 10-1 Palais, Sparkling Harry, Unitus, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: Miss S Wilton, 11 winners from 37 runners, 29.7%; J S Moore, 4 from 15, 26.7%; D Carroll, 4 from 15, 26.7%; M Johnston, 43 from 215, 20.0%. Jockeys: R FitzPatrick, 8 winners from 24 rides, 33.3%; Kimberley Hart, 11 from 51, 21.6%; J Weaver, 37 from 222, 16.7%; R Cochrane, 20 from 157, 12.7%; D Sweeney, 17 from 139, 12.2%.

CARLISLE: Trainers: N Richards, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; Mrs M Reveley, 25 from 96, 26.0%; Mrs A Swinbank, 7 from 33, 21.2%; P Monteith, 8 from 40, 20.0%; D Smith, 3 from 16, 18.8%. Jockeys: A Dobbin, 27 winners from 124 rides, 21.8%; L Wyer, 10 from 47, 21.3%; R Supple, 12 from 76, 15.8%; J Callaghan, 7 from 46, 15.2%; R Wilkinson, 3 from 20, 15.0%; J Supple, 6 from 47, 12.8%.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Track and field

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: AAA indoor championships: [illegible]

[illegible]

Cross country

[illegible]

LIEVIN, France: International indoor meeting: Men: 60m: 1, A Dair (Nigeria) 5.61, 2, E Nkansah (Ghana) 5.62; 3, B Surin (Can) 5.64. 60m hurdles: 1, D Ross (US) 7.44, 2, C Hawkins (US) 7.52; 3, A Garcia (Cuba) 7.54 Women: 60m: 1, G Devers (US) 6.02; 2, M Ottey (Jam) 6.06; 3, S Fynes (Bahamas) 6.07 Triple jump: 1, A Hansen (GB) 14.81m; 2, S Kasperkova (Cz) 14.77; 3, I Prandsheva (Bul) 14.56. 3,000m: 1, G Szabo (Rom) 8min 34.09sec; 2, V Szekely (Rom) 8:48.64; 3, Z Koznovskaia (Ukr) 8:50.78. 60m hurdles: 1, O Shishigina (Kaz) 7.82; 2, B Bukovec (Slovakia) 7.84; 3, K Anderson (Can) 7.94.

[illegible] set 272; 4, Leicestershire 338, 5, Kent 342; 6, Hampshire 368 Senior men (4km) 1, D Heath (South) 12:23; 2, S Haughian (South) 12:26; 3, J Moorhouse (North) 12:29, 4, M Openshaw (North) 12:32; 5, P Tulba (South) 12:32, 6, M Smith (Midlands) 12.34. Teams: 1, North 32; 2, South 36; 3, Midlands 61, 4, Scotland 96; 5, Wales 98 Senior women (8km). 1, A Mudge (Scottish East) 28:24; 2, T Kryzwicki (Leicestershire) 28:29, 3, L Wright (Cornwall) 28.46; 4, A Whitcombe (Middlesex) 28:50; 5, S Reinsford (Bedfordshire) 28:55, 6, H Yelling (Middlesex) 29.13, 7, L Elliott (Hertfordshire) 29.33, 8, S Young (Greater Manchester) 29 34, 9, S Morris (Hertfordshire) 29 39, 10, B Jenkins (Greater Manchester) 29.47 Teams: 1, Middlesex 161; 2, Greater Manchester 203, 3, Scottish West 282, 4, North East 293, 5, Leicester 319, 6, Avon and Somerset 383 Senior women (4km), 1, H Pattison (North) 14.24, 2, A Waterlow (North) 14.27, 3, H Tarry (Wales) 14:28

SWANLEY: Kent League: 1, I Hamilton (Medway) 30min 14sec, 2, S Bell (Cambridge Harriers) 31:02; 3, M Linney (Bexley Borough) 31:36. Teams: 1, Cambridge Harriers 50pts; 2, Dartford 58, 3, Medway 62 Final positions: 1, Medway 342; 2, Tonbridge 339 3, Cambridge Harriers 333 Overall individual winner: R Hall (Medway) 55

GUILDFORD: London Colleges League: Men (5.2 miles). 1, M Skinner (Brunel University) 29min 12sec, 2, K O'Dea (St Mary's College) 29.39 3, N Stoddart (Brunel University) 29 55 Teams: First division: 1, Brunel University 438pts 2, Imperial College 392 3, Reading University 379 Leading positions (after five matches): 1, Imperial College 2,007, 2, Brunel University 1,890 3, King's College 1,669 Second division: 1, University College 338 2, North London University 327, 3, St Mary's College 314 Leading positions (after five matches) 1, St Mary's College 1656, 2, University College 228, 3, North London University 1537 Women (2.8 miles): 1, Y Hague-Baker (Royal Holloway) 16:52, 2, G Anci (University College) 16 56, 3, V Frew (Surrey University) 17.25 Teams: 1, Surrey University 164, 2, Royal Holloway College 155 3, St George's Hospital 142 Leading positions (after five matches) 1, Roehampton Institute 657 2, Royal Holloway College 646 3, University College 632

Road running

VICTORIA PARK, Hackney: Chingford League (8km): 1, P Northrop (Enfield) 24min 57sec; 2, L Mangelshot (Woodford Green) 25 01, 3, J Lindgren (Muswell Hill Runners) 25.15. Teams: 1, Muswell Hill Runners 73pts; 2, Woodford Green 101, 3, Enfield 195 Leading positions (after seven matches) 1, Muswell Hill Runners 86, 2, Woodford Green 82, 3, Barnet and Enfield 79 Women (8km) 1, J Laws (Muswell Hill Runners) 28.46; 2, V Parry (Muswell Hill Runners) 30 12; 3, S Chapman (Woodford Green) 31:45 Teams: 1, Muswell Hill Runners 18, 2, Orion 34; 3, Barnet 53 Leading positions (after seven matches) 1, Orion 91, 2, Trent Park 82, 3, Eton Manor 78

Fell running

HEBDEN BRIDGE, West Yorkshire: Wadsworth Trog race (20 miles, 4000ft) 1 equal, M Wallis (Clayton-le-Moors, M40) and J Howard (Rossendale) 2hr 55min 33sec, 3, J Wright (Todmorden) 2 59 51; 4, D Horsfall (Bingley) 3 01.59, 5, G Wilkinson (Clayton-le-Moors) 3 02.22, 6, S Bottomley (Eccleshill) 3.04 13. Team: Clayton-le-Moors, 14pts. Women: 1, S Becconsall (Todmorden, 50) 3 48 45, 2, L Lacon (Holmfirth) 4 07 35; 3, L Hayles (Halifax, W40), 4.11 57, 4, W Dodds (Clayton-le-Moors, W40) 4:22 40; 5, C Preston (Keighley and Craven) 4.34.26, 6, S Middleton (Clayton-le-Moors) 4 46.23.

BOWLS

ALL-ENGLAND MIXED INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Egham Trophy): Quarter-finals: Concordia bt Spalding 86-73. North Walsham bt Cherwell 76-72. Cambridge Park bt Folkestone 81-80. Moonbeet bt Teignbridge 90-77 Draw for semi-finals (at Northampton on March 21). Concordia v North Walsham, Cambridge Park v Moonbeet

GREENGAUGE WELSH INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (at Bro Myrddin Carmarthon) Semi-finals: Cardiff bt Swansea 138-89. Merthyr Tydfil bt Flinth 134-98

WOMEN'S TEST MATCH: Guernsey v Scotland (at Hougue du Pommier, Guernsey): Scotland bt Guernsey 18-4

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Final (at Stirling) West Lothian 69 East Lothian 60

BOXING

NEW YORK: International Boxing Federation welterweight championship: F Trinidad (P Rico, holder) bt P Whitaker (US) pts. TEESSIDE: World Boxing Federation middleweight championship (vacant): C Carr (GB) bt S Foster (GB) pts. Women's International Boxing Federation welterweight championship: J Couch (GB, holder) bt M Spaun (Holl) pts

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Cartier Challenge Trophy: 1, J Sunley (GB) 4min 44.82sec, 2, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 4 45 11, 3, M Mertens (Ger) 4:45 60; 4, Count L Marenzi (US) 4 46 08 5, G Pitsch (Switz) 4 49 30; 6 C Cordier (Switz) 2 50 04 Gunter Sachs Challenge Cup: 1, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 1min 41 19sec 2, J Sunley (GB) 1:41 83, 3, Count L Marenzi (US) 1:42 62, 4, M Mertens (Ger) 1:43.38, 5, M Mettler (Switz) 1 44 40, 6, A Ionesco (Sp) 1 44 84

CYCLING

ROAD RACES: Circuit of Forestside (Rowland's Castle, Hampshire 37 miles) 1 G Bayton (Amore e Vita) 1hr 35min 21sec 2, P Wilkes (VC St Martinus) at 3sec. 3, M Beckett (PDM Sports) same time. Mid-Devon CC Handicap (Starcross, 34 miles), 1, L Cooksley (St Austell Wh) 1 18 30 2, A Parker (Mid-Devon CC), 3, D Luggar (Barnstaple Imperial Wheelers) all same time Twickenham CC-Evans Cycles Winter series (Hillingdon, 52km) 1, V Halpern (Twickenham CC) 1 14:50; 2, A Leach (Team Sport and Publicity). 3, D Crow (Twickenham CC) at same time Final overall 1, P Swettenham (Twickenham CC) 371 pts, 2, V Halpern 360. 3, M Hill (Viking Wheelers) 312.

TIME TRIALS: Kingston Wheelers sporting (Ripley, Surrey, 14 miles): 1, J Henderson (Terry Wright Cycles) 33:11, 2, P Main (Redhill CC) 33 14, 3, H Skelton (Imperial College) 33:38. Team: Redhill CC 1 44 52 Tavistock Wheelers sporting (Kelly Bray, Cornwall, 14 miles): 1, A Ryder (St Budeaux CC) 38:08, 2, N Polinghorne (St Austell Wheelers) 39:05; 3, C Hallis (Mid-Devon CC) 39:35. Team: Mid-Devon CC 2:04 36

Knaresborough RT [illegible] 1, F Newman (Pole Road Racing) 29 10, 2, [illegible] Cooke (Pace Sport) 29 14; 3, T Stan (Pete Road Racing) 29 15 Andover Wheelers hilly [illegible] (10.2 miles): 1, D [illegible] Sports Concorde) 25 49 (course and event record). 2, M Cox (Scottish [illegible]) 26 65. 3, D Urquhart (Army CU) 36 64

GOLF

LOS ANGELES: Nissan Open: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 200: T Tryba 70, 69, 61. 202: [illegible] 69, 68, 65 [illegible] 204: J Kelly 68, 69, 67 [illegible] 205: [illegible] 206: B Bates 70 [illegible] 207: [illegible] 213: [illegible] 214: C Johnson [illegible] Other scores: 215: [illegible] 220: [illegible] 226: [illegible] 229: L Davies (GB) 74, 72, 83

KAPOLEI: LPGA Hawaiian Open (United States unless stated): Leading final scores: 209: A Nicholas (GB) 73, 68, 73 210: [illegible] 211: J Stephenson (Aus) 71, 69, 71 212: [illegible] (GB) 71, 70, 71, P Hurst 69 [illegible] 213: [illegible]

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Saturday: Ayr Scottish Eagles 1 Newcastle Riverkings 4, Nottingham Panthers 3 London Knights 2

	P	W	L	D	OL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	37	28	5	1	3	137	74	60
Cardiff	36	25	9	0	2	125	83	52
Nottingham	38	22	13	1	2	127	124	47
Bracknell	37	16	16	[illegible]	4	121	133	36
Ayr	35	15	15	3	2	113	112	35
Sheffield	36	14	17	3	2	117	122	33
Newcastle	36	11	21	2	2	98	131	26
London	37	9	22	2	4	102	162	24

CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Sheffield Steelers 5 Manchester Storm 0 Cardiff Devils 2 Nottingham Panthers 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Tampa Bay 4 Phoenix 2, Buffalo 4 San Jose 2 New York Rangers 6 Pittsburgh 1, Detroit 3 New Jersey 1, Colorado 4 Nashville 4; Dallas 5 Chicago 1, Calgary 6 Anaheim 3. Saturday: Carolina 3 Tampa Bay 2; Washington 3 San Jose 1, Ottawa 4 Philadelphia 1 Toronto 3 Montreal 2 (OT). New York Islanders 3 New Jersey 2, Florida 7 Phoenix 1 Nashville 4 St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 2 Calgary 2; Anaheim 5 Vancouver 1

Eastern Conference

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Ottawa	32	16	6	72	164	116
Toronto	32	20	4	68	181	162
Buffalo	27	19	10	64	162	120
Montreal	23	28	5	54	139	154
Boston	25	24	9	53	136	129

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Philadelphia	29	14	13	71	176	121
New Jersey	31	20	7	69	171	147
Pittsburgh	30	17	7	67	172	148
NY Rangers	22	27	7	51	156	158
NY Islanders	18	33	7	43	135	174

Southeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Carolina	26	22	10	62	152	143
Florida	21	21	15	57	147	147
Washington	25	28	5	51	141	147
Tampa Bay	12	40	5	29	117	210

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Detroit	31	23	4	66	171	142
St Louis	22	22	10	54	152	144
Nashville	20	31	6	46	135	185
Chicago	16	34	8	40	129	184

Northwest division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Colorado	29	21	6	64	153	138
Edmonton	22	26	8	52	154	147
Calgary	20	28	9	49	145	166
Vancouver	18	32	7	43	142	162

Pacific division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Dallas	35	10	8	78	158	106
Phoenix	29	17	10	68	145	124
Anaheim	24	25	9	57	155	147
San Jose	20	25	13	53	132	136
Los Angeles	21	31	5	47	134	153

LACROSSE

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Hampstead 16 Beckenham 3, Kenton 16 Bath 6, Purley 15 Hitchin 7 First division: Cambridge Univ 1 Buckhurst Hill 0, Hitchin 12 Oxford Univ 2, Croydon 12 Portsmouth Univ 3

ROWING

BURWAY HEAD: Eights: Men: Senior one: Walton 9min 01sec. Senior two: Oxford University Lightweights 8.58 Senior three: St Edwards 9.21 Senior four: Balliol College, Oxford 9.45 Women: Elite Thames 10.42 Senior one: Burway 11.26 Senior two: Furnivall 11.27 Senior three: Thames 10.56 Novice: Twickenham 11.29 Fours: Men: Elite: Walton 9.31 Senior one: Kingston University 10.13 Senior two: Rude 11.21 Senior three: Guildford 11.57 Senior four: Kingston 11.13 Women: Senior three: Burway 12.45 Novice: Guildford/Walton 13.43. Quads: Men: Senior two: King's Rochester 10.20 Women: Senior two: Burway 11.42

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 3a (Hawaii to Yokohama, with miles to finish): 1, Ariel (A Thomson) 49 2, Chrysolite (T Hodges) 123, 3, Senca (R Dean) 162 4, Antiope (F Harris) 180 5, Thermopylae (M Tod) 206, 6, Mermerus (B Sollars) 456 7 Taeping (N Fleming) 1,136

PERTH, Australia: Flying Fifteen world championships: Final race: 1, G Alderson (Aus) 2, P Parker (Aus) 3, M Hart (GB). Leading final positions: 1, S Goacher (GB) 19.50pts 2, Hart 25.50 3, A Burr (GB) 30.00 4, N Jerwood (GB) 30.75, 5, P Beurhaus (Aus) 47.30

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: NEN Trophy: Tameside 3 Stockport 2, Wigan 2 Bolton 2 West Midlands League: Nuneaton 0 Burton 1 Brierley Hill and Dudley 3 Telford 1 Staffordshire League: Wolverhampton 5 South Cheshire 2 Pickford Shield: Semi-final: Portsmouth 2 Isle of Wight 1 Inter-association matches: Hull 2 Sheffield 1, Walsall 1 Chesterfield 1

RUGBY UNION: International match (under-18): France 30 Wales 20 (in Gaillac)

SHOOTING

ALDERSLEY: Staffordshire British Air Pistol championships: Men: 1, M Gault (Norwich) 673.9, 2, S Preston (Guernsey) 673.7 3, M Barter (Bedford) 667.8 Junior men: 1, D Pennell (Crewe) 641.6, 2, M Bird (East Bristol) 640.9, 3, T Robinson (Fareham) 628.5 Senior women: 1, C Page (Marlebone) 466. 2, L Bird (East Bristol) 463.1, 3, J Wood (East Bristol) 450.5 Junior women: 1 H Preston (York Jubilee) 407.9 2, K Pearson (Swadlincote) 452.4 3, S Bird (East Bristol) 450.2 Class X aggregate: 1 Gault 1,163 2, Barter 1,160; 3, S Preston 1,149

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: Scottish Open: Semi-finals: G Dott (Scot) bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-5, S Hendry (Scot) bt J Higgins (Scot) 6-5. Final: Hendry leads Dott 6-0

SWIMMING

PARIS: World Cup: Tenth round (short course): Saturday: Men: Freestyle: 100m: 1, G Borges (Bri) 47.76sec 2, C Fydler (Aus) 48 05, 3, S Muhammad (US) 48 19 400m: 1, J Hoffman (Ger) 3 42 36 2, P van den Hoogenband (Hol) 3 44 31 3, S Cros (Fr) 3 49 62 [illegible] (GB) 3 57 56 Backstroke: 100m: 1, F Esposito (Fr) 53 63 2, M Harris (GB) 54 09 3, O Amarson (Iceland) 54 32 6, A Ruckwood (GB) 54 54 Breaststroke: 50m: 1, F Deburghgraeve (Bel) 27 79 2, Zhu Yi (China) 27 89 3, J Kruppa (Ger) 27 95 200m: 1, [illegible] 2 10 66 2, Kruppa 2 10 74 3 R Mitchell (Aus) 2 11 36 Butterfly: 50m: 1, Muhammad, 23.51 2, M Milosevic (Cro) 23 98 3, J Hickman (GB) 24 06 200m: 1 Hickman 1 55 20 2, M Halka (Isr) 2:03 79 3, T Wilkens (US) 2 01 31 Medley: 100m: 1, C Keller (Ger) 55 31 2, S Tucker (US) 56 04 3, M Harris (GB) 56 79 400m: 1, Wilkens 4 13 76, 2, Keller, 4 13 94 3, Harris 4 14 78 6, B Lafferty (GB) 4 23 63 Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, K Meissner (Ger) 25.17 2, S Rolph (GB) 25.22 3, S Hosack (US) 25 49 200m: 1, M Jacobsen (Den) 1 58 47 2, L Nicholls (Can) 1 59 15 3, F van Almsick (Ger) 1 59.21 6, K Legg (GB) 2:00 01 800m: 1 Chen Hua (China) 8 30 17 [illegible] Backstroke: 50m: [illegible] 200m: [illegible] Breaststroke: 100m: [illegible] 1 08 99 Butterfly: 100m: [illegible] Medley: 200m: [illegible] Yesterday: Men: Freestyle: 50m: [illegible] 200m: [illegible] 1,500m: 1, J Hoffman (Ger) 14 46 79 [illegible] Backstroke: 50m: [illegible] 200m: 1, A Ruckwood (GB) 1 57 59 [illegible] Breaststroke: 100m: [illegible] Butterfly: 100m: [illegible] Medley: 200m: [illegible] Women: Freestyle: 100m: [illegible] 400m: [illegible] Backstroke: 100m: [illegible] Breaststroke: 50m: [illegible] 200m: [illegible] Butterfly: 50m: [illegible] 200m: [illegible] Medley: 100m: [illegible] 400m: [illegible] Tapma (Japan) 4 [illegible]

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Indoor tournament: Semi-finals: [illegible] Rusedski (GB) 6-4, 6-2. T Henman (GB) bt M Safin (Rus) 7-6, 7-5 Final: [illegible] Henman 6-2, 7-6

MEMPHIS: Kroger St Jude tournament: Quarter-finals: J Courier (US) bt M Puerta (Arg) 6-0, 6-2, D Nestor (Can) bt J van Lottum (Hol) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, T Martin (US) bt J Gambill (US) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6, T Haas (Ger) bt A Ilie (Aus) 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 Semi-finals: Courier bt Van Lottum 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 Haas bt Martin 6-3, 7-6

HANOVER: WTA tournament: Semi-finals: J Novotna (Cz) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 7-6, 6-4, V Williams (US) bt S Graf (Ger) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Final: Novotna bt Williams 6-4, 6-4

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bournville 0 Teddington 4, Brooklands 3 Guildford 4, Cannock 4 Canterbury 2; Hounslow 2 Beeston 6; Old Loughtonians 3 Southgate 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	16	13	2	1	61	23	41
Southgate	16	12	0	4	45	37	36
Canterbury	16	11	2	3	66	39	35
Reading	16	9	4	3	50	31	31
Guildford	16	8	2	6	54	58	26
Beeston	16	7	4	5	37	32	25
Old L'tonians	16	7	1	8	52	55	22
Teddington	16	6	3	7	45	40	21
Bournville	16	4	4	8	30	50	16
Hounslow	16	3	3	10	29	49	12
E Grinstead	16	2	1	13	39	55	7
Brooklands	16	0	2	14	25	64	2

FIRST DIVISION: Barford Tigers 3 St Albans 3, Bromley 2 Indian Gymkhana 2; Doncaster 1 Stourport 0; Eastcote 4 Isca 2; Hampstead 4 Oxford Hawks 3; Harleston Magpies 2 Lewes 3; Hull 2 Havant 1; Loughborough Students 0 Surbiton 6; Oxford University 6 Firebrands 2; Sheffield 3 Chelmsford 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	15	12	1	2	64	22	37
Doncaster	15	11	3	1	54	18	36
Lewes	15	11	2	2	57	32	35
Stourport	15	8	4	3	50	28	28
Barford Tigers	15	8	4	3	50	36	28
Havant	15	9	0	6	37	30	27
Chelmsford	15	8	2	5	44	35	26
L'borough St	15	6	6	3	29	26	24
Indian G	15	6	5	4	43	47	23
Eastcote	15	6	4	5	38	41	22
Harleston	15	4	5	6	40	43	17
St Albans	15	4	4	7	44	57	16
Firebrands	15	4	3	8	38	42	15
Isca	15	4	2	9	30	55	14
Oxford Hawks	15	2	7	6	35	38	13
Hampstead	15	4	1	10	31	54	13
Oxford Univ	15	2	5	8	29	43	11
Bromley	14	3	2	9	22	40	11
Sheffield	15	2	4	9	30	50	10
Hull	14	2	2	10	20	48	8

SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackheath 0 Beckenham 2; Bournemouth 0 Maidenhead 0; Chichester 3 Gore Court 2: Old Cranleighans 2 Winchester 0; Old Whitgiftians 1 Purley 3; Tunbridge Wells 2 City of Portsmouth 1; Wimbledon 1 Richmond 0; Woking 1 Herne Bay 2; Wokingham 6 Anchorians, 1 Postponed: High Wycombe v Fareham. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes 3 Blandford 6, Camberley 3 Fleet 6; Dulwich 3 Goan 0; Epsom 6 Basingstoke 0; Old Georgians 9 Haslemere 2; Oxshott 0 Old Mid Whitgiftians 2; Portsmouth 0 Trojans 5. Wandsworth 3 Andover 3, London Wayfarers 3 Oxted 1. Kent/Sussex: Burnt Ash 1 Brighton 2; Eastbourne 3 Folkstone 1; Lloyds Bank 0 Bexley Invicta 3, Mid Sussex 2 Middleton/Bognor 9; Old Holcombeians 3 Old Bordenians 0; Old Williamsonians 2 Marden Russets 3; Sevenoaks 5 BBHC 1; South Saxons 3 Horsham 3; Tulse Hill 3 Ashford 3; Worthing 3 Rochester and Gillingham 1. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Farnham Common 2 Hayes 2; Lions 5 Marlow 0; Newbury 3 Hendon 2; Old Kingstonians 4 Abingdon 1; PHC Chiswick 3 Milton Keynes 1, Richings Park 5 West Hampstead 1; Sonning 1 City of Oxford 4; Staines 2 Ramgaria 1, Sunbury 2 Gerrards Cross 1, Ashford 7 Phoenix 2.

NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ben Rhydding 0 Bowdon 3; Durham University 1 Norton 5; Formby 1 Sheffield Bankers 0; Harrogate 3 Chester 1, Neston 5 Rotherham 3; Southport 6 Warrington 0 North West: First division: Bolton 3 Cheetham Hill 1, Chester 3 Sandbach 0, Colwyn Bay 4 Glaxo 1; Knutsford 2 Monsanto 2, Oxton 1 Sale 0; Prescot 0 Liverpool University 1.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry and North Warwicks 2 Harborne 2; Leek 0 Edgbaston 0, North Notts 1 Shrewsbury 2; North Stafford 3 Olton and West Warwicks 4, Northampton Saints 3 Hampton-in-Arden 1; Nottingham 2 Khalsa 2

PREMIER HOLIDAYS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City 1 Blueharts 2; Cambridge University 4 Bishop's Stortford 3, Clacton 4 Bedford Town 3; Peterborough Town 2 Colchester 1, West Herts 0 Ipswich 8.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Gloucester City 2 Cheltenham 2; West Wilts 3 Taunton Vale 2, Weston-super-Mare 4 Bath Buccs 3.

EUROPEAN INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: Division A (in Lille): Group A: Vienna AC 1 Stade Lausanne 5; Lille 4 Harvestehuder 6 Final standings: 1, Harvestehuder 9pts; 2, Lille 6, 3, Lausanne 3 Group B: At Terrassa 9 Slagelse (Den) 4; Durkheimer 4 Poczlowiec 4. Final standings: 1, Durkheimer 7; 2, Terrassa 6, 3, Poczlowiec 4. Semi-finals: Harvestehuder 6 Terrassa 6 (Terrassa win 4-1 on pens); Durkheimer 10 Lille 2. Final: Durkheimer 7 At Terrassa 9 Third-place play-off: Harvestehuder 6 Lille 4. Fifth-place play-off: Poczlowiec 5 Slagelse 3. Seventh-place play-off: Vienna AC 7 Stade Lausanne 4 (Switzerland relegated). Division B (in Prague): Group A: Slavia Prague 9 Partille 4; Ryl White Star 6 CUS Torino 9. Group B: Reading 3 Menzieshill 5; HK Marathon 4 Ekaterinburg 9. Semi-final: Slavia Prague 2 Menzieshill 2 (Menzieshill win 4-3 on pens): Ekaterinburg 9 White Star 4. Fifth-place play-off: Partille 7 Marathon 5; Reading 8 CUS Torino 3. Final: Dinamo Ekaterinburg 1 Menzieshill 1 (Menzieshill win 5-4 on pens). Third-place play-off: Slavia Prague 7 White Star 3. Fifth-place play-off: Reading 6 Partille 4. Seventh-place play-off: CUS Torino 7 Marathon 6 (Scotland and Russia promoted) Division C (in Budapest): Swansea 7 Elektrovojvodina 6. Semi-finals: Rosco 4 Vinnitsa 3; Porto 2 Swansea 2 (Swansea win 4-3 on pens): Final: Rosco 5 Swansea 3

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (in Peshawar): Pakistan 1 India 2

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton 1 Hightown 1; Doncaster 1 Slough 9; Leicester 1 Ipswich 3; Olton 2 Sutton 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	11	9	1	1	31	11	28
Slough	11	8	1	2	42	20	25
Clifton	11	6	2	3	23	18	20
Hightown	11	4	6	1	21	16	18
Olton	11	3	3	5	22	30	12
Sutton	11	3	0	8	16	29	9
Leicester	11	2	2	7	20	31	8
Doncaster	11	1	1	9	18	38	4

FIRST DIVISION: Aldridge 0 Wimbledon 1; Chelmsford 3 Loughborough Students 1; Sunderland 0 Canterbury 1: Trojans 2 Bradford 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford	11	6	2	3	23	14	20
Canterbury	11	6	1	4	28	17	19
Loughborough	11	5	2	4	20	17	17
Bradford S	11	4	4	3	21	20	16
Trojans	11	4	4	3	23	23	16
Aldridge	11	5	1	5	13	15	16
Wimbledon	11	3	4	4	14	18	13
Sunderland	11	1	2	8	8	26	5

SECOND DIVISION: Ealing 0 Sherwood 1, Hampton 1 Woking 2; Old Loughtonians 10 Poynton 0, St Albans 2 Bracknell 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woking	11	10	1	0	42	13	31
Ealing	11	6	2	3	15	16	20
Loughtonians	11	5	3	3	34	17	18
St Albans	11	4	3	4	22	27	15
Bracknell	11	4	2	5	16	18	14
Sherwood	11	4	0	7	7	15	12
Poynton	11	2	2	7	20	34	8
Hampton	11	2	1	8	17	33	7

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambs C 0 Bury St Edmunds 2; Dereham 0 Harleston 3; Ipswich 3 Letchworth 0; Sevenoaks 2 Ashford 0. Standings: 1, Harleston 29pts; 2, Ipswich 22; 3, Sevenoaks 21 Midlands: Bedford 0 Kettering 1, Belper 2 Crimson R 2; Loughborough Students 1 North Staffs 0; Olton 3 Luton 4 Standings: 1, Bedford 27; 2, Loughborough 23; 3, Kettering 22. South: Dulwich 5 Winchester 0; Maidenhead 2 City of Portsmouth 1; Rover 6 Reading 1; Southampton 2 Hendon 1, W Witney 3 Horsham 0 Standings: 1, Dulwich 38; 2, Rover 38; 3, Southampton 34 West: Cheltenham 4 Leominster 1, Colwall 1 Bournemouth 2; Exmouth 1 Exeter 0; Portishead 2 Redland 1; T Vale 4 St Austell 5 Standings: 1, Exmouth 30; 2, Colwall 30; 3, Exeter 24. North: Liverpool 1 Leyland M 2; Sheffield 4 Don Valley 2, Blackburn 5 Winnington Park 2, Chester 0 Deeside R 1. Standings: 1, Deeside R 31 (Champions). 2, Liverpool 19, 3, Chester 18.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	96	210	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	-4	21/2
St Anton	100	150	Good	Slushy	Varied	Rain	-3	21/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	130	168	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	19/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	162	300	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	1	20/2
Argentiere	120	320	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	2	21/2
Avoriaz	290	310	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	2	21/2
Flaine	200	600	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Snow	3	21/2
La Clusaz	110	250	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Rain	3	21/2
La Plagne	180	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	21/2
La Tania	158	245	Good	Slushy	Varied	Snow	1	21/2
Les Arcs	200	320	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	2	21/2
Meribel	90	220	Good	Slushy	Varied	Rain	0	21/2
Tignes	170	300	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	0	21/2
Val d'Isere	135	320	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Snow	2	21/2
Valmorel	145	230	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	21/2
Italy								
Cervinia	100	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	21/2
Cortina	50	70	Fair	Slushy	Varied	Fair	2	18/2
Livigno	72	173	Good	Worn	Varied	Snow	5	21/2
M di Campiglio	50	100	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Sun	6	19/2
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	100	260	Good	Open	Varied	Snow	0	21/2
Grindelwald	50	270	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Rain	2	21/2
Murren	190	350	Good	Open	Heavy	Snow	0	21/2
Saas Fee	110	340	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	2	20/2
St Moritz	50	160	Good	Slushy	Varied	Cloud	3	21/2
Villars	100	280	Good	Slushy	Heavy	Rain	1	21/2
Wengen	150	200	Good	Closed	Heavy	Rain	3	21/2
Zermatt	125	255	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	2	21/2
United States								
Aspen	128	160	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-5	19/2
Deer Valley	222	232	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-3	11/2

L — lower slopes - U = upper slopes

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern Ford Premiership

Bramley 14 Keighley 12

Bramley: Tries: Poynter 2, Potter Goal: A Gibbons Keighley: Tries: Lee, Ramshaw. Goals: Wood 2. Att: 850

Dewsbury 31 Leigh 16

Dewsbury: Tries: Graham 2, Evans, Flynn, Medley. Goals: Eaton 5 Dropped goal: Agar Leigh: Tries: Fairclough, Hadcroft, Hilton. Goals: Kendrick 2. Att: 1,314.

Doncaster 22 Swinton 18

Doncaster: Tries: Alfie Goulbourne 3, Alex Goulbourne Goals: Cresser 3 Swinton: Tries: P Barrow, Bleese, Evans. Goals: Watson 2, Gartland Att: 762

Hull KR 8 Batley 6

Hull KR: Try: Dixon. Goals: Charles 2. Batley: Try: Simpson. Goal: Price Att: 2,300

Hunslet 48 Workington 6

Hunslet: Tries: Pachniuk 3, D'Arcy, Fatnowna, Tawhai, Thackray, Walker Goals: Fletcher 8. Workington: Try: Arnold. Goal: Branthwaite. Att: 1,325

Whitehaven 28 Widnes 6

Whitehaven: Tries: Joe, Kiddie, Kitchin, Morton, Walsh Goals: Hetherington 4. Widnes: Try: Briers Goal: Salisbury Att: 1,006.

York 32 Lancashire Lynx 6

York: Tries: Strange 2, Booth, Cain, Hopcutt, Lambert. Goals: J Benn 4 Lancashire Lynx: Try: P Jones Goal: P Jones. Att: 792.

POSTPONED: Rochdale v Barrow.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam 13 Oldham St Annes 17; Beverley East Hull 8 Wigan St Patricks 50; Haworth 12 Woolston 14; Skirlaugh 8 West Hull 18; Thornhill 10 Walney Central 25 Postponed: Saddleworth v Egremont. First division: Dudley Hill 28 Rochdale Mayfield 4, Leigh East 38 Shaw Cross 0; Oulton 8 East Leeds 13; Siddal 38 Moldgreen 10. Postponed: Barrow Island v Redhill, Wigan St Judes v Millom Second division: Crosfields 48 New Earswick 10, Dewsbury Moor 25 Keighley Alb 0; Ideal Isberg 15 Eastmoor 11; London Skolars 14 Eccles 34; Normanton 12 Ovenden 24; York Acorn 23 Dodworth 2. Postponed: Blackbrook v Hull Dockers



Priest, of the Cardiff Devils, holds off a Nottingham Panthers player during his side's Challenge Cup semi-final, first leg defeat yesterday. Photograph: Gareth Everett

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: Derby 91 Sheffield 88; Leicester 78 Edinburgh 90; London 72 Newcastle 83; Manchester 86 Birmingham 78; Worthing 84 Milton Keynes 77. Yesterday: Sheffield 89 London 64, Milton Keynes 73 Greater London 79.

	P	W	L	Pts
Manchester Giants	29	26	3	52
Sheffield Sharks	29	26	3	52
Thames Valley Tigers	28	18	10	36
Derby Storm	26	16	10	32
Newcastle Eagles	28	16	12	32
London Towers	27	15	12	30
Birmingham Bullets	27	15	12	30
Greater London	26	14	12	28
Milton Keynes Lions	29	8	21	16
Edinburgh Rocks	26	7	19	14
Leicester Riders	27	7	20	14
Chester Jets	26	6	20	12
Worthing Bears	28	4	24	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff P 77 Cardiff C 111, Coventry 93 Westminster 87; Mid Sussex 100 Brixton 55; Plymouth 93 Stevenage 75; Solent 80 London 78; Solihull 78 Oxford 75. Second division: Bournemouth 94 Slough 81; Manchester 101 Thames Valley 76. Third division: Doncaster 81 Sutton 89. Women: First division: Doncaster 37 Birmingham 69; NW London 60 Leicester 47, Nottingham 59 Sheffield 66; Rhondda 76 Ipswich 60. Second division: Solent 38 Cardiff 48

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Friday: Washington 93 Chicago 91, Toronto 90 Milwaukee 82; Philadelphia 67 New York 78, Atlanta 94 Orlando 99; Detroit 101 Phoenix 93: Minnesota 115 Vancouver 96; Portland 106 Boston 86; Sacramento 106 Charlotte 95, Golden State 84 Dallas 79; Los Angeles Lakers 108 San Antonio 94. Saturday: Miami 81 Houston 71; Utah 110 Seattle 80. Philadelphia 69 Atlanta 76; Cleveland 89 New Jersey 84; Milwaukee 80 Indiana 82; Portland 90 Golden State 84, Dallas 105 LA Clippers 90

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	8	1	889	—
Minnesota	6	2	750	1½
Houston	6	3	.667	2
San Antonio	4	5	.444	4
Vancouver	3	5	375	4½
Dallas	2	8	.200	6½
Denver	1	8	.111	7

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	6	2	750	—
Seattle	6	2	750	—
LA Lakers	6	3	667	½
Sacramento	5	3	625	1
Phoenix	5	4	556	1½
Golden State	4	6	.400	3
LA Clippers	0	7	.000	5½

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	7	2	778	—
Miami	6	3	667	1
New York	5	3	625	1½
Philadelphia	4	5	444	3
Boston	3	4	429	3
Washington	3	4	429	3
New Jersey	2	6	250	4½

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	6	3	.667	—
Indiana	6	3	667	—
Cleveland	5	3	625	½
Milwaukee	5	3	625	½
Detroit	4	5	444	2
Toronto	2	5	286	3
Charlotte	1	7	125	4½
Chicago	1	7	125	4½

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Lincoln City v Port Vale (1 0) North West Conference: Chester v Preston (1.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton v Barnet (at Leyton Town, 7 0); Oxford v Bournemouth (7.30): Reading v Tottenham (7.30)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Sunderland v Leicester (7 0) Second division: Sheffield Utd v York (2.0). Third division: Carlisle v Darlington (2.0). Wigan v Bury (2.0). League Cup: Quarter-final: Tranmere v Huddersfield (7.15)

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE CUP: Third-round replay: Clitheroe v St Helens Town (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

TENNIS: Guardian Direct Cup (at Battersea Park)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fifth round: Arsenal v Sheffield Utd (7 45)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bristol Rovers v Gillingham (7 45), Fulham v Reading (7 45). Luton v Notts County (7 45), Northampton v Walsall (7 45); Preston v Lincoln (7 45) Third division: Plymouth v Chester (7 45), Swansea v Mansfield (7 45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Quarter-finals: Rochdale v Halifax (at Halifax, 7 45).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Doncaster v Telford (7 45), Hayes v Stevenage, Kingstonian v Leek: Rushden and Diamonds v Southport.

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round: Clydebank v Dundee Utd.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Albion v Cowdenbeath; Ross County v Brechin; Stenhousemuir v Montrose.

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Cardiff Devils (7.30)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Fifth-round replays: Blackburn v Newcastle (7.45); Derby v Huddersfield (7 45); Tottenham v Leeds (7 45)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship qualifying match: England v Belarus (at Crystal Palace NSC, 7.30).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Manchester Storm (7 30). Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (7 30)

RUGBY UNION: Club match: Royal Navy v Cambridge University (at US Portsmouth, 6.15).

THURSDAY

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: London Knights v Bracknell Bees (7 0). Nottingham Panthers v Manchester Storm (7 30)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Watford v Swindon (7 45)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fifth round: Castleford v York (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Women's European indoor club championship: Division A (at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, 10.0) Glasgow W v Slough (1 0); Glasgow W v Sociedad (Sp) (5 0), Slough v Loco Raca (Slovakia) (6 0)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Aston Villa v Coventry, Charlton v Nottingham Forest: Chelsea v Liverpool, Everton v Wimbledon, Manchester Utd v Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough, Tottenham v Derby, West Ham v Blackburn.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Crewe, Bradford v West Bromwich; Bristol City v Ipswich, Grimsby v Birmingham, Norwich v Sheffield Utd, Oxford Utd v Sunderland (6.0), Portsmouth v Port Vale, Stockport v Queens Park Rangers; Tranmere v Bury; Wolverhampton v Huddersfield. Second division: Bournemouth v Wycombe, Burnley v Gillingham: Chesterfield v Manchester City, Colchester v Reading: Lincoln v Bristol Rovers; Luton v Blackpool, Macclesfield v Wigan, Northampton v Millwall, Notts County v Walsall, Preston v Oldham; Stoke v Wrexham: York v Fulham. Third division: Barnet v Exeter, Brentford v Scarborough; Brighton v Leyton Orient: Cambridge Utd v Southend, Chester v Carlisle, Halifax v Hull; Hartlepool v Rotherham; Mansfield v Scunthorpe. Plymouth v Peterborough; Rochdale v Cardiff, Shrewsbury v Darlington, Swansea v Torquay

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Doncaster v Hereford: Dover v Hayes, Farnborough v Kidderminster, Hednesford v Leek; Kettering v Welling, Telford v Barrow

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Celtic v Dundee Utd, Dundee v St Johnstone; Hearts v Aberdeen, Motherwell v Dunfermline

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Ayr v Hibernian Clydebank v Greenock Morton, Raith v Airdrie St Mirren v Hamilton. Stranraer v Falkirk. Second division: East Fife v Alloa, Forfar v Partick, Inverness CT v Livingston Queen Of South v Arbroath Stirling v Clyde Third division: Albion v Ross County. East Stirling v Brechin Montrose v Berwick. Queen's Park v Dumbarton, Stenhousemuir v Cowdenbeath

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Quarter-finals: Gloucester v Harlequins (3 0) Richmond v Leicester

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bedford v Sale (3 0) Second division: Exeter v Worcester (3 0), Fylde v Moseley London Welsh v Coventry (2 0), Orrell v Bristol (3 0), Rugby v Wakefield (3 0)

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham/Solihull v Reading, Harrogate v Lydney. Liverpool St Helens v Otley, Manchester v Henley (2 15) Nottingham v Camberley (3 0), Rosslyn Park v Newbury. Wharfedale v Morley (2 15) Second division north: Aspatria v Walsall: Kendal v Preston Grasshoppers. Lichfield v Hinckley. Sedgley Park v New Brighton, Sheffield v Nuneaton, Whitchurch v Sandal: Winnington Park v Stourbridge Second division south: Bracknell v Esher (2.15), Cheltenham v Barking, Norwich v Met Police Plymouth v North Walsham Redruth v Bridgwater (3.0) Tabard v Havant (2 15). Weston-super-Mare v Clifton (3 0)

SWALEC CUP: Sixth round: Aberavon v Cardiff Blackwood v Tredegar Bridgend v Swansea, Caerphilly v Ebbw Vale Cross Keys v Tondu Llanelli v Llanhilleth. Pontypool v Neath: Pontypridd v Bonymaen.

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Llandovery v Newbridge.

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v West of Scotland (3 0). Glasgow Hawks v Watsonians (3 0), Hawick v Heriot's FP (3 0) Jed-Forest v Currie (3 0). Stirling County v Melrose (3.0) Second division: Aberdeen GSFP v Kelso (3.0) Biggar v Musselburgh (3 0) Dundee HSFP v Kilmarnock (3 0): Edinburgh Acads v Selkirk (3 0) Gala v Kirkcaldy (3.0). Third division: Ayr v Stewart's Mel FP (3 0). Glasgow Southern v Gordonians (3 0); Glenrothes v Berwick (3 0); Grangemouth v East Kilbride (3 0); Preston Lodge v Peebles (3 0)

AIB LEAGUE: First division: Ballymena v Garryowen. Blackrock College v Buccaneers Clontarf v Shannon Cork Constitution v St Marys Terenure v Galwegians. Young Munster v Lansdowne Second division: Bective Rangers v Dolphin: DLSP v Malone, Derry v Greystones. Dungannon v Old Belvedere. Portadown v Old Crescent. Skerries v Wanderers: Sunday's Well v Old Wesley: UCC v Ballynahinch

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fifth round: Leeds v St Helens (3 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship qualifying match: Israel v England (8 50) Dairylea Dunkers All-Star Game (at Telewest Arena, Newcastle)

BOXING: York Hall, Bethnal Green: WBU lightweight title: C Dunne (Liverpool, holder) v P Holliday (SA)

HOCKEY: Women's European indoor club championship: Division A (at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, 9 0) Slough v Sociedad (Sp) (11 0). Glasgow W v Loco Raca (Slovakia) (12 0) Women's National League: Premier division: Ipswich v Doncaster (12 0) Fyffes Leicester v Sutton (12 30) Olton v Hightown (2 0) Women's Welsh League: Cardiff Ath v Newport Colwyn Bay v Newtown, Penarth v UWIC, Swansea v Cwmtawe

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Bracknell Bees v Cardiff Devils (6 0) Sheffield Steelers v Newcastle Riverkings (7 0). Nottingham Panthers v Ayr Scottish Eagles 7 0)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle v Arsenal (4 0)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Crystal Palace v Barnsley (1 0)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Kilmarnock v Rangers (6 05)

RUGBY UNION

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Quarter-finals: Newcastle v Saracens (2 0), Wasps v London Irish (3 0)

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: Second division: Blackheath v Rotherham (3 0) Leeds v Waterloo (2 30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fifth round: Huddersfield v Salford (3 0), Hull KR v London (3 0): Wakefield v Bradford (3 0) Warrington v Halifax (2 30), Whitehaven v Oldham (3 0): Widnes v Leigh (3 15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Chester Jets v Newcastle Eagles (7 30).

HOCKEY: Women's European indoor club championship: Division A (at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, 9 0) Semi-finals (10 15). Final (4 0)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Bracknell Bees v Nottingham Panthers (6 0). Cardiff Devils v Manchester Storm (6 0) London Knights v Sheffield Steelers (6 0). Newcastle Riverkings v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6 30)

RUGBY UNION

Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship

England 24 Scotland 21

England: Tries: Beal, Luger, Rodber Cons: Wilkinson 3 Pen: Wilkinson Scotland: Tries: Tait 2, Townsend Cons: Logan 3 HT: 17-7 Att: 75,000 (at Twickenham)

Wales 23 Ireland 29

Wales: Tries: Howarth, C Quinnell Cons: N Jenkins 2 Pens: N Jenkins 3 Ireland: Tries: Maggs, Wood Cons: Humphreys 2. Pens: Humphreys 3 Dropped goals: Humphreys 2 HT: 6-16 Att: 76,000 (at Wembley)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	1	0	1	54	44	2
Ireland	2	1	0	1	38	33	2
England	1	1	0	0	24	21	2
France	1	1	0	0	10	9	2
Wales	2	0	0	2	43	62	0

Allied Dunbar Premiership

Second division

Coventry 22 Bristol 19

Coventry: Tries: Gough, Robinson, Whateley. Cons: Gough 2 Pen: Gough. Bristol: Tries: Gabey, Misson, penalty try. Cons: Knox 2 HT: 10-5

Fylde 5 Rotherham 34

Fylde: Try: O'Grady Rotherham: Tries: Schmid 2, Lax, Scully, Wade Cons: Niarchos 3 Pen: Niarchos HT: 0-17 Att: 600

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Worcester	18	16	0	2	498	224	30
Bristol	18	14	0	4	546	270	28
Rotherham	18	14	0	4	482	229	28
London Welsh	18	12	0	6	442	385	24
Leeds	18	10	0	8	441	246	20
Coventry	18	10	0	8	437	373	20
Waterloo	18	10	0	8	311	366	20
Exeter	17	9	1	7	366	388	19
Orrell	18	8	0	10	340	295	16
Moseley	18	7	0	11	370	433	14
Rugby	17	7	0	10	289	346	14
Wakefield	18	3	0	15	309	549	6
Fylde	18	2	1	15	210	586	5
Blackheath	18	2	0	16	228	559	4

* Worcester deducted 2pts

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Second round

Gloucester 27 Leeds 9

Gloucester: Tries: Johnson 2, Catling, Davis Cons: Mannix 2 Pen: Mannix. Leeds: Pens: James 3 HT: 7-9 Att: 2,193

London Scot 12 Sale 92

London Scot: Tries: McAusland, Philip. Con: McAusland. Sale: Tries: Hanley 3, Mather 3, Mallinder 2, Baldwin, Baxendell, Geraghty, Knight, Morris, P Sanderson Cons: J Shaw 11 HT: 12-31 Att: 50

Moseley 21 Wakefield 20

Moseley: Tries: Hampton, N Mitchell, Smart Pen: S Jones Pen: Smart Wakefield: Tries: Flint 2, O Edwards. Con: Dixon Pen: Dixon HT: 8-0

Newcastle 38 Richmond 17

Newcastle: Tries: J Naylor 2, Charlton, Legg, Massey, O'Neill Cons: Legg 4 Richmond: Tries: Codling, Deane, Powell. Con: Butland HT: 19-5 Att: 1,046

Rugby 19 Bedford 22

Rugby: Tries: Morgon, Tarbuck, Wingham Cons: D Evans 2. Bedford: Tries: Crane, Underwood, Wells Cons: Yapp 2 Pen: Yapp HT: 5-22 Att: 650

Saracens 18 Bath 24

Saracens: Tries: Botterman, Grau Con: Singer Pens: Thirlby 2. Bath: Tries: A Adebayo, T Adebayo, Balshaw, Cooper Cons: Perry 2 HT: 0-19 Att: 2,900

Waterloo 25 Exeter 13

Waterloo: Tries: Graham penalty try, Wands Cons: L Griffiths 2 Pens: L Griffiths 2 Exeter: Try: Reed Con: B Easson Pens: B Easson 2 HT: 12-6 Att: 400

Jewson National League

First division

Morley 24 Rosslyn Park 36

Morley: Tries: S Smith 2, C Hall S Worsley. Cons: Bamber 2 Rosslyn Park: Tries: Cooke, Jack, A Maddock, penalty try, Wilks Cons: T Knowles 4 Pen: T Knowles HT: 0-22 Att: 500

Newbury 26 Henley 28

Newbury: Tries: 2 penalty tries, Gully, McCormick. Cons: Pohupo 3. Henley: Tries: Davies 2, Roke Con: Roke Pens: Roke 3 HT: 12-23 Att: 1,100

Nottingham 45 Liverpool St H 11

Nottingham: Tries: Royer 2, Bradley, Delaney, Freer, Spencer Cons: C Atkinson 3 Pens: C Atkinson 3 Liverpool St H: Try: J Hitchen Pens: Glynn 2 HT: 20-11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Henley	20	17	1	2	508	253	35
Manchester	21	17	0	4	629	265	34
Rosslyn Park	21	13	0	8	447	302	26
Otley	21	12	1	8	356	319	25
Newbury	21	11	1	9	417	347	23
Wharfedale	21	11	0	10	375	292	22
Nottingham	20	11	0	9	432	360	22
Lydney	19	9	1	9	316	371	19
Camberley	21	9	1	11	400	525	19
Reading	21	9	0	12	386	463	18
B'ham/Solihull	21	8	0	13	343	409	16
Harrogate	21	5	2	14	224	374	12
Morley	21	5	1	15	347	521	11
Liverpool St H	21	4	0	17	271	650	8

SECOND DIVISION NORTH: Sheffield 3 Kendal 23, Walsall 14 Hinckley 13 Postponed: Sedgley Park v Sandal

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH: Barking 25 Bridgwater 0; Bracknell 37 Redruth 10; Cheltenham 17 Norwich 8; Esher 41 Clifton 3

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Cheshunt 18 Wimbledon 21

SOUTH WEST: Gloucester OB 7 Penzance-Newlyn 20 Old Patesians 24 Torquay Athletic 6

NORTH: Northern 29 Middlesbrough 15 Tynedale 34 Widnes 19

CLUB MATCHES: London Welsh 22 Scottish Districts 26 London Irish XV 3 Surrey 17

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Narbonne 27 Stade Français 10, Bourgoin 24 Castres 39 Nimes 12 Aurillac 14, Toulon 28 Biarritz 14 Pool two: Perpignan 51 Begles-Bordeaux 22 Montferrand 28 Agen 21 Nice 12 Dax 31 Béziers 20 Auch 10 Pool three: Brive 25 Toulouse 21, Pau 29 Grenoble 16. Colomiers 18 Périgueux 3, Racing Club 16 La Rochelle 15

CRICKET

One-day internationals

New Zealand v South Africa

AUCKLAND (New Zealand won toss). New Zealand beat South Africa by seven wickets

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Doull b Allott	4
† M V Boucher c Parore b Allott	16
L Klusener not out	103
J H Kallis run out	12
D J Cullinan b Harris	14
*W J Cronje c Twose b Harris	5
J N Rhodes b Astle	18
S M Pollock lbw b Harris	20
N Boje not out	12
Extras (lb 4, w 4)	8
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	**212**

P L Symcox and A A Donald did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-24, 2-24, 3-65, 4-85, 5-97, 6-144, 7-174

BOWLING Doull 8-1-37-0, Allott 10-1-51-2, Nash 4-0-29-0 Larsen 10-0-34-0 Harris 10-0-32-3, Vettori 5-0-14-0, Astle 3-0-11-1

NEW ZEALAND

M J Horne c Klusener b Pollock	21
N J Astle not out	100
C D McMillan c Boucher b Donald	13
R G Twose b Klusener	28
† A C Parore not out	26
Extras (b 2, lb 7, w 17, nb 1)	27
Total (3 wkts, 43.1 overs)	**215**

*D J Nash, C Z Harris, D L Vettori, G R Larsen, S.B Doull and G Allott did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-39, 2-52, 3-123

BOWLING Pollock 8-2-20-1; Kallis 6-0-22-0 Symcox 7 1-0-64-0. Donald 7-1-21-1, Cronje 3-0-15-0. Klusener 5-0-29-1 Boje 7-1-35-0

Umpires B F Bowden and D B Cowie

Zimbabwe A v England A

HARARE (England A won toss) England A beat Zimbabwe A by two wickets (D/L method)

ZIMBABWE A

G C Martin lbw b Thomas	4
C B Wishart c Loye b Franks	66
† T N Madondo c Windows b Flintoff	6
*G J Whittall b Franks	14
S V Carlisle c Swann b Franks	0
D P Viljoen c Read b Flintoff	36
C N Evans run out	1
B C Strang c Read b Maddy	10
E A Brandes c Loye b Flintoff	9
J A Rennie c Windows b Flintoff	9
A G Huckle not out	3
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 14, nb 3)	22
Total (44.1 overs)	**179**

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-19, 2-41, 3-66, 4-68, 5-130, 6-133, 7-150, 8-158, 9-172

BOWLING Harmison 9-0-46-0, Thomas 7-0-27-1, Flintoff 8.1-2-22-4, Franks 9-2-22-3. Swann 3-0-14-0, Maddy 8-0-43-1

ENGLAND A

*D L Maddy c Rennie b Brandes	9
R W T Key c Brandes b Huckle	26
A Flintoff c Evans b Rennie	6
M B Loye c Evans b Huckle	18
M G N Windows st Madondo b Viljoen	48
V S Solanki st Madondo b Huckle	12
† C M W Read lbw b Viljoen	30
G P Swann c Whittall b Viljoen	5
P J Franks not out	16
S D Thomas not out	7
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 2, nb 3)	9
Total (8 wkts, 44.1 overs)	**183**

S J Harmison did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-2, 2-12, 3-53, 4-70 5-96, 6-120, 7-142, 8-171

BOWLING Brandes 6-1-1-73-1, Rennie 8-1-30-1, Strang 9-1-32-0 Huckle 9-0-34-3. Evans 4-0-19-0 Viljoen 6-0-25-3, Whittall 2-0-16-0

Umpires G R Evans and M A Esat

International match

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

ALEXANDRA (final day of four) New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by an innings and 11 runs

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 295 (I R Bell 115, H Shaw 4 for 54)

Second Innings

*M A Gough c Martin b Shaw	20
I N Flanagan b Martin	13
I R Bell c McGlashan b Gillespie	17
M A Carberry st McGlashan b Martin	6
R K J Dawson not out	65
M P Bulbeck run out	3
M J Symington lbw b Martin	0
J Tucker b Martin	10
R J Logan c Jansen b Franklin	5
† M A Wallace c and b Gillespie	14
G Bridge b Gillespie	0
Extras (b 6, lb 2)	8
Total	**161**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-34, 2-34, 3-61, 4-61 5-70, 6-72, 7-90, 8-105, 9-155

BOWLING Shaw 12-5-16-1, Martin 42-14-64-4, Gillespie 21-4-43-3, Franklin 10-3-15-1 Jansen 1-0-9-0

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First Innings

T McIntosh c Logan b Dawson	71
M Papps c Wallace b Tucker	25
*J I Englefield b Tucker	69
B Patton lbw b Bridge	12
J McNamee c Gough b Bulbeck	35
J E G Franklin c Wallace b Logan	127
† P McGlashan c Symington b Bridge	38
S Jansen b Dawson	5
R Martin b Tucker	32
M Gillespie not out	10
H Shaw c Bulbeck b Tucker	4
Extras (b 17, lb 16, w 3, nb 4)	40
Total	**467**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-47, 2-160, 3-184, 4-193, 5-239, 6-358, 7-377, 8-446, 9-451

BOWLING Bulbeck 28-5-83-1 Logan 31-11-67-1, Dawson 40-10-87-2, Tucker 16.5-2-53-4; Symington 15-4-41-0 Bridge 33-4-84-2, Gough 6-1-19-0

Umpires D R Murdoch and G J Stewart

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER — THE TIMES

FREE UCI CINEMAS TICKET FOR EVERY READER



• Valid at 35 UCI cinemas in the British Isles
• See any film showing between February 25 and March 25
• Visit anytime (offer includes Fridays and weekends)

Today *The Times* offers every reader a FREE ticket to see one of the latest exciting releases at any of UCI's 35 cinemas in Britain and Ireland.

You can choose from *You've Got Mail*, the new Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan love story; *Little Voice* which earned for Michael Caine Best Actor at the Golden Globe awards; and *The Thin Red Line*, Terrence Malick's epic about the Second World War starring John Travolta and Sean Penn. Among other films showing during the offer period are two that have been nominated for Oscars for Best Picture, *Life is Beautiful* and *Central Station*.

Simply attach five differently numbered tokens to the voucher, below left, and present them to the cinema of your choice. Six tokens will appear in *The Times* this week and two in *The Sunday Times*, the first was published yesterday and another will appear next Sunday. The offer is valid between this Thursday, February 25 and Thursday, March 25, 1999.

THE TIMES/UCI CINEMAS FREE TICKET OFFER

Present this voucher, with five differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and/or *The Sunday Times* attached, to one of the participating UCI Cinemas listed, between Thursday, February 25 and Thursday, March 25, 1999, and it will be exchanged for one FREE cinema ticket. No photocopies of this voucher or tokens will be accepted. There is no cash alternative.

Title .... Initials ....

Surname ....

Address ....

....

Postcode ....

Day tel ....

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? ☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

If you buy *The Times*, on which day(s) do you usually buy it? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy *The Times*

Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

5. Do you normally visit UCI cinemas? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. If yes, have you used the offer to make an additional visit to a UCI cinema? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* ☐ or UCI cinemas ☐ please tick.



PARTICIPATING UCI CINEMAS

Basildon; Bracknell; Derby; Dudley; Gateshead; Hatfield; High Wycombe; Huddersfield; Hull; Manchester (Trafford Centre); Milton Keynes; Newcastle (Silverlink); Poole; Portsmouth; Preston; Sheffield; Solihull; Sutton; Tamworth; Telford; Warrington; West Thurrock.

London: Empire, Leicester Sq; Lee Valley; Plaza, W1; Surrey Quays; Whiteleys, Bayswater. **WALES:** Cardiff; Swansea. **SCOTLAND:** Clydebank; East Kilbride; Edinburgh. **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND:** Blanchardstown; Coolock; Tallaght.

To find out what is on at your local UCI cinemas call 0990 88 89 90 or visit the website on www.uci-cinemas.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4,895.30	Allied Domecq†	460	+13	5.4	12.3
149.70	Bulmer (HP)	282½	...	4.6	12.7
7.41	Burn Stewart	12½	-1½	...	...
23,271.80	Diageo	649½	+1	3.0	18.7
96.80	Glenmorangie A	712½	+2½	2.5	19.3
334.70	Highland Dist	250½	-2	4.7	11.5
7.02	Morland W	26½	...	...	...
8,264.30	SA Breweries†	612½	-15	3.9	14.2

BANKS

Mkt cap (£million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
17,343.50	ABN-AMRO	1218½	-58½	3.2	14.9
17,726.70	Abbey Nat	1251	+4	3.1	17.1
5,153.60	Alliance & Leic	862½	+79½	3.2	16.8
9,032.50	Allied Irish	1048½	-48½	2.3	...
6,367.40	Aus New Z	413½	-3	4.9	...
69,588.05	Bank America	4018½	+90½	...	...
11,188.70	Bank Scotland	904½	+42	1.4	22.7
25,824.70	Barclays	1697	+161	3.4	18.7
6,770.40	Bk of Ireland	1320	+37½	2.1	21.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

[illegible]

DISTRIBUTORS

[illegible]

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

LEISURE & HOTELS

[illegible]

MEDIA

[illegible]

MINING

[illegible]

OIL & GAS

[illegible]

OTHER FINANCIAL

[illegible]

PHARMACEUTICALS

[illegible]

PRINTING & PAPER

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RETAILERS, FOOD

[illegible]

RETAILERS, GENERAL

[illegible]

SUPPORT SERVICES

[illegible]

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

[illegible]

TRANSPORT

[illegible]

WATER

[illegible]

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

[illegible]

British Government Stocks

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

Source: FT Information
[illegible]



By the time you finish this sentence, 35 new people will have joined the Internet.

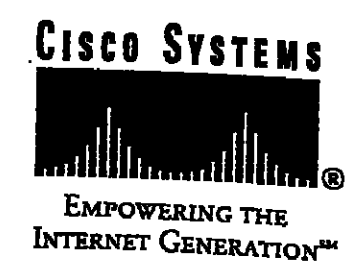
No wonder he demands his service provider displays this logo.



This month, 18 million people will go online for the first time. Next month? Probably more. The impact on your business will be huge. And your service provider will play a vital role in your success. But how do you choose the right one?

Fortunately, the answer is simple. Look for service providers who display the Cisco Powered Network logo. It means they employ Cisco technology, the same technology that carries virtually all of today's Internet traffic. They can help whether you need Internet access, ATM, Frame Relay, voice or any other network services.

Find out more about Cisco Systems and accredited service providers by visiting www.cisco-powered.net



Question marks surround BAe results

COMPANIES

BRITISH AEROSPACE: The future of its loss-making Royal Ordnance division and the question mark surrounding the future of the al-Yamamah contract will be top of the agenda when Sir Richard Evans, chairman, reveals the final results on Thursday.

Pre-tax profits are set to come in at between £650 million and £700 million, compared with £596 million last time. Earnings per share will be up about 14 per cent at 28p.

The group's coffers will be boosted by payments from Saudi Arabia and brokers will be anxious to see what level those payments have reached, despite reports last week that the contract had been shelved.

The group appears to be in need of the funds. Interim results showed the level of capital expenditure soaring from £217 million to £876 million as the order book continued to grow. It is estimated to be about £25 billion. A healthy increase in the dividend of about 25 per cent from 4.9p to 6.1p is forecast.

HSBC: Rising bad debt provisions will take the shine off final results when they are unveiled later today. BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a 17 per cent drop in pretax profits from $8.14 billion (£5 billion) to $6.78 billion with earnings a share down from 126p to 99p. It blames the downturn on rising bad debt provision and a fall in the level of disposal gains.

Profits before provisions are calculated to grow 5.4 per cent despite a disappointing second-half performance.

Hong Kong will be the worst operating area for the group, with profits down 7.5 per cent. In the US margin pressure will have intensified, resulting in slightly lower profits. But the real impact on profits will come from a rise in bad debt provisions of more than $1 billion to $2.47 billion.

Shareholders should receive a payout of 56p, up 6p on the previous year.

NATWEST BANK: A strong performance is envisaged when final results are announced tomorrow with pretax profits set to double to more than £2 billion.

Profits this time will also be clouded by exceptional items, although if these are stripped out, underlying profits would be up about 14 per cent at £2.38 billion. This will reflect tight cost controls and a 6 per cent increase in income.

Lower restructuring costs at Greenwich NatWest will also improve the overall outlook as the business swings from a loss of £43 million to a surplus of £47 million. Bad debt provisions will decline from £562 million to £451 million, reflecting the absence of emerging market provisions last year that came to £80 million.

The dividend should grow 11 per cent from 32.2p to 35.9p. The group has already spent £375 million on buying back its own shares and further purchases cannot be ruled out.

CADBURY SCHWEPPES: A modest increase in full-year profits are anticipated when the confectionery group reports on Wednesday.

At the pre-tax level, profits are expected to come in at between £590 million and £600 million, compared with £575 million last time, while earnings should be virtually unchanged at 37.4p.

The results will be struck after provisions relating to currency factors and higher disposal costs. A write-down of £65 million in its Russian operations will be partially offset by a profit of £16 million from the sale of its stake in ITNet and £14 million from other disposals.

BT Alex Brown is looking for profits of £595 million and says its calculation has not taken account of the sale of the non-US soft drinks and bottling operations.

Confectionery in Europe has seen a slowdown in the second half, while a good third-quarter performance is anticipated from US beverages. The payout should grow by 1p to 19p.



Royal Ordnance will be on investors' minds when Sir Richard Evans reports BAe's results

UNILEVER: The decline in the Anglo-Dutch food group's share price has more to do with profit downgrades at its rival Nestlé than fundamental problems of its own. But a useful improvement in profits is forecast when final results are unveiled tomorrow.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £2.8 billion, a rise of about 15 per cent on the £2.43 billion achieved in 1997. This excludes profits from disposals.

Growth in Europe will have been held back by the poor summer. But laundry tablets and deodorants will have performed well. Strong growth will have also been enjoyed in the US. Brokers forecast an increase in operating margins by 70 basis points, fuelled by increased marketing spend.

Earnings a share should be up from 19.6p to 23.2, paving the way for a jump of nearly a quarter in the payout to 10.4p.

CENTRICA: A strong second half is expected to provide a useful boost to full-year profits published on Wednesday. Net income is forecast to grow from £23 million to £69 million, boosting earnings a share also by about 200 per cent from 0.52p to 1.56p.

Unfortunately, there is no prospect of a dividend payment, although there has been mounting speculation about a special one-off payment of between 16p and 18p a share.

BG: Another strong performance from its Transco division will provide the key to a sparkling set of fourth-quarter numbers tomorrow.

A 24 per cent increase in operating profits to £359 million is forecast, indicating a 19 per cent rise for the full year to £601 million.

Transco will have benefited from the colder weather in the final quarter and growing industrial demand that will have boosted volumes and lowered costs. The exploration and production side will be hit by lower gas prices and weaker oil prices.

Brokers will be hoping for some indication from the group that it has begun to tackle the issue of unlocking value from Transco. The dividend goes up from 4p to 4.3p.

STANDARD CHARTERED: Final results on Wednesday should mark the low point in the group's fortunes. Pre-tax profits after provisions are set to decline from £870 million to between £650 million and £690 million, while earnings a share are likely to be 25 per cent lower at 43p. Bad debt provisions will have grown from £156 million to £449 million.

The setback will reflect deteriorating trading conditions in the Asia Pacific region. In spite of the profits setback, brokers are forecasting a 15 per cent hike in the payout to 21.3p.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER: Final results on Friday should make interesting reading. Pretax profits are set to grow from £395 million to £450 million with earnings a share up almost 20 per cent at 53.3p.

But after stripping out millennium costs of £12 million this year and £28 million of conversion costs last year, the actual rise is a more modest 9 per cent. The group will have held its own in the competitive mortgage market although tougher conditions will have prevailed in the second half.

The dividend should grow from 20.8p to 24.2p.

RIO TINTO: Falling metal and commodity prices will have taken a toll of the mining finance house when full-year results are published on Thursday. Pre-tax profits will have declined from £744 million to between £680 million and £700 million with earnings a share declining by about 6 per cent from last year's 53.1p.

A cut in the dividend seems inevitable, given the gloomy outlook for the industry. Brokers are forecasting 26.6p against 27.2p last time.

HANSON: The group has concentrated its efforts on the heavy building materials end of the market and it seems to be paying dividends. Its inclusion late last year as a constituent of the top 100 companies will be backed up by a useful increase in full-year results on Thursday. Pre-tax profits are set to come in at between £240 million and £250 million, compared with £224.7 million last time. Earnings a share should be up about 10 per cent at 31.5p.

Almost half the group's profits are now generated by the heavy side of the US construction market, where prospects appear bright. The payout should go up from 12p to 12.4p.

CGU: The insurance reporting season kicks off on Wednesday with results from CGU. Analysts are looking for pretax profit in a range of £467 million to £550 million. New rules on reporting for insurers mean that the results will include an estimate of long-term investment gains within operating profit. Life business has been strong but CGU is likely to have made a provision in the US and put a substantial part of the merger costs through the books.

PRUDENTIAL: BT Alex Brown believes the Pru has spent about £60 million setting up Egg, its new direct savings account. Despite this, it is looking for pre-tax operating profit of £876 million (£864 million) thanks to a positive contribution from the UK life business and Jackson National in the US.

LEGAL & GENERAL: Life profits and investment management profits should offset a deterioration in the general insurance result, with analysts looking for pre-tax operating profit in the £370 million range (£349.6 million).

The City will be waiting for new chief executive Alan Frost to outline his strategy for the home service company United Assurance on Thursday, having had six months to come up with a plan to turn the business around. BT Alex Brown is looking for pre-tax operating profit of £274.5 million, down from £304.9 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: none. **Finals:** BGR, Community Hospitals, Guardian Inv Trust, Hibernian, HSBC Holdings, Skipton BS, Ultra Electronics, Zotefoams. **Economic statistics:** February consumer confidence survey.

TOMORROW

Interims: Access Plus, Beazer, City Tech Hldgs, Gartmore Shared Equity Trust (9mths), ICM Computer, NXT, Pacific Horizon Inv Trust. **Finals:** Admiral, Associated British Ports, BG, Capital & Regional, Dmatek, Herald Inv Trust, Inv Trust of Guernsey, Irish Perm, Lorien, NatWest Bank, Oxford Assymetry Int, Porvair, Shires Smaller, Stadium, Transport Dev, Unilever, Vymura. **Economic statistics:** December global, January non-eu trade, Q4 provisional GDP.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Aim, Logica. **Finals:** Ashanti Goldfield, Avis Europe, Cadbury Schweppes, Cannons, Centrica, CGU, Conister Trust, Diagonal, Domnick Hunter, Easynet, Inveresk, Microgen, Prudential, Quantica, Select Appointments, Standard Chartered. **Economic statistics:** none.

THURSDAY

Interims: Baillie Gifford Shin Nippon, Eidos, Galliford, Isotron, Lincat, Linx Printing Technologies, A&J Mucklow, Quayle Munro, Ricardo, William Sinclair Hldgs. **Finals:** BAe, Card Clear, T Clarke, COLT Telecom, S Daniels, Estates & General, Forest Active, GRE, Green Property, KBC Advanced Technologies, Legal & General, Lex Service, Lionheart, London Bridge Software, Orange, Provident Financial, Quadrant Healthcare, Smith & Nephew, United Assurance. **Economic statistics:** BBA January mortgage lending, CBI February industrial trends, CBI quarterly economic forecast.

FRIDAY

Interims: Go-Ahead. **Finals:** Alliance & Leicester, TF&JH Braime, ITNet. **Economic statistics:** Nationwide February house price survey.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** British Aerospace, Coats Viyella, Glencar Mining, Somi, Wickes. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Scottish Power, Rage Software, British Aerospace, 600 Group, Smith & Nephew, Wickes; **Sell** Austin Reed. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Hold** WPP, Stoves. *Sunday Business*: **Buy** Atlantic Telecom.

G7 focus on European growth

Financial markets will start the week digesting the results of Saturday's meeting of the Group of Seven in Bonn, particularly any hints of pressure being put on Europe to stimulate growth in euroland. Attention will then, however, move swiftly on to Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, who delivers his Humphrey-Hawkins testimony to the Senate tomorrow.

Given hints that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is contemplating raising its forecast for US growth this year to between 2.5 and 3 per cent, from the 1.5 per cent predicted in December, the markets are becoming sensitive about the Fed Chairman's view of interest rates. They will be watching for any evidence that Mr Greenspan has moved to a "bias to tighten US monetary policy".

In Britain, tomorrow sees members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee give evidence to the Commons Treasury Select Committee on the *Inflation Report*. The City will be looking for evidence of whether there remains a majority on the MPC in favour of more base rate cuts. On a light menu of UK economic data this week is the provisional estimate of fourth-quarter gross domestic product tomorrow; it is expected to be revised down from the 0.2 per cent growth in the preliminary estimate to growth of only 0.1 per cent.

Also published tomorrow is December global visible trade figures, expected to show a deficit of some £2 billion, according to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS. January figures for ex-European Union trade are expected to show a shortfall of £1.6 billion. The only other piece of UK economic information is the February monthly trends survey from the CBI on Thursday.

Other points of interest this week are prices figures from France and Germany, which are expected to show that the two leading economies in euroland are very near to zero inflation. January figures are expected to show French consumer price inflation at an annual rate of 0.7 per cent with German consumer price inflation at 0.4 per cent.

JANET BUSH

CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar
1.6295 (+0.0002)
Euro
0.6809 (–0.0115)
Exchange Index
101.9 (+1.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3670.3 (+41.0)
FTSE 100
6031.2 (+80.5)
New York Dow Jones
9339.95 (+65.06)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14098.04 (+124.35)

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.66	2.48
Austria Sch	21.20	19.54
Belgium Fr	62.41	57.45
Canada $	2.553	2.365
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8943	0.8228
Denmark Kr	11.50	10.61
Egypt	5.77	5.16
Finland Mkk	9.28	8.53
France Fr	10.10	9.32
Germany Dm	3.034	2.792
Greece Dr	498	459
Hong Kong $	13.48	12.28
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17989	12989
Ireland Pt	1.2107	1.1217
Israel Shk	7.00	6.34
Italy Lira	3018	2781
Japan Yen	211.58	194.05
Malta	0.670	0.612
Netherlds Gld	3.426	3.131
New Zealand $	3.16	2.92
Norway Kr	13.33	12.39
Portugal Esc	306.88	284.85
S Africa Rd	10.80	9.84
Spain Pta	255.76	236.97
Sweden Kr	13.85	12.75
Switzerland Fr	2.502	2.284
Turkey Lira	581837	543164
USA $	1.739	1.596

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

VERTICLE

(c) A vertebra. From the Latin diminutive of *vertex*. It means a joint. "Some Childrens back bone have I seen crackt in two, and the verticles thereof were disjoyned."

YOUF

(c) To bark, especially in a suppressed manner. Echoic. *Cf. yaff*. "My Collie, Ringie, youf'd an yowl'd a' night."

YUG

(c) In Hindu cosmology, any of the four ages in the duration of the world, the four ages comprising 4,320,000 years and constitutinga a great yuga (*Mahayuga*). The Sanskrit word means an age of the world. "The duration of the Historical ages must needs be very unequal; while that of the Indian Yugs is disposed so regularly and artificially that it cannot be admitted as natural or probable."

VARICELLA

(b) Chicken-pox. An irregular diminutive of *variola*. "Varicella has been largely confounded with small-pox, of which it has been regarded as a modified variety."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

Solution: 1 Qxf6+! Qxf6 2 Re8+ Qf8 3 Rxf8+ Bg8 4 Rgxg8 checkmate. Full marks also for 1 Re8!, which also wins immediately.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BENSON AT YOUR SERVICE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Shay Bannon of Levy Gee, P.O. Box 2653, 66 Wigmore Street, London, W1A 3RT, give notice that on 28 January 1999 I was appointed Liquidator of Benson At Your Service Limited by resolutions of members ...

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
ASAT (UK) LIMITED

Registered number: 2727430. Nature of business: Assembly and testing of semiconductors. Trade classification: 11. Administration Order made: 12 February 1999. Derek Anthony Howell and Joseph Patrick Considine Joint Administrators. (office holder nos 6604 and 1768)

MIDDLETON MAINTENANCE GROUP PLC (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at, Colmore Gate, ... Birmingham, B3 ... Deloitte & Touche, Colmore Gate, 2 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BN, by 12.00 noon on the business day before the meeting. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
ANDREW PHILIP PETERS
Joint Administrative Receiver
Date: 18 February 1999

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS FOR PUBLICATION IN APPROPRIATE NEWSPAPERS

... A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at Deloitte & Touche of Columbia Centre, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1PA during the two business days preceding the above meeting.
Dated: 16 February 1999
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Paul Hatch
Director

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SUBSECTIONS 8(5) AND 10(6) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

1. He proposes to grant a licence under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to Kingston Communications (Hull) PLC ("the Licensee") to run telecommunication systems in the Licensed Area. The licence will be for a period of 6 months, thereafter being subject to revocation on one month's notice.

2. The principal effect of the licence will be to enable the Licensee to install and run telecommunication systems in the Licensed Area. The Licensee will be able to provide a wide range of services but excluding mobile radio services and certain international services. The licence authorises connection to a wide range of other systems, including earth orbiting apparatus, allowing the provision of some types of international service. On securing a share of 25% or more of the market in respect of particular services in an area specified by the Director General of Telecommunications, the Licensee may be obliged to make available those telecommunications services to all who reasonably request them within that area.

3. The licence will be subject to conditions such that section 8 of the Act will apply to it, thereby making the system run under the licence eligible for designation as a public telecommunication system under section 9 of the Act. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to designate the Licensee's system as a public telecommunication system.

4. The Secretary of State proposes to grant the licence in response to an application from the Licensee for such a licence because he considers that it will help to satisfy demands in the Licensed Area for the provision of services of the type authorised, will promote the interests of consumers in respect of the quality and variety of such services, and will maintain and promote effective competition between those engaged in the provision of telecommunication services.

5. He proposes to apply the telecommunications code ("the Code") to the Licensee subject to certain exceptions and conditions throughout the Licensed Area. The effect of the exceptions and conditions to the application of the Code is that the Licensee will have duties:

(a) to comply with various safety and environmental conditions, in particular (with certain exceptions) to install lines underground or only on such above-ground apparatus as is already installed for any purpose;

(b) to comply with conditions designed to ensure efficiency and economy on the part of the Licensee, in connection with the execution of works on land concerning the installation, maintenance, repair or alteration of its apparatus;

(c) to consult certain public bodies before exercising particular powers under the Code, including the local planning and highway authorities and English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland, as well as relevant electricity suppliers;

(d) to keep and make available records of the location of underground apparatus and copies of the exceptions and conditions in the licence to its powers under the Code; and

(e) to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet certain liabilities arising from the execution of street works.

6. The reason why the Secretary of State proposes to apply the Code to the Licensee is that the Licensee will need the statutory powers in the Code to install and maintain the telecommunication systems which are to be installed and run under the proposed licence.

7. The reasons why it is proposed that the Code as applied should have effect subject to the exceptions and conditions referred to above are that they are considered requisite or expedient for the purpose of securing that the physical environment is protected, that there is no greater damage to land than necessary, that the systems are installed as safely and economically as possible, and that the Licensee to whom the Code is applied can meet (and relevant persons can enforce) liabilities arising from the execution of works.

8. Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed licence, the application of the Code to the Licensee and the proposed exceptions and conditions referred to above. They should be made in writing by 23 March 1999 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 2.80 Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licence can freely be obtained by writing to the Department or by calling 0171 215 1756.

Alan D Proud
Department of Trade and Industry
22 February 1999

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NO: 260 OF 1998
IN THE LEICESTER COUNTY COURT IN BANKRUPTCY

... Dated this 12th day of February 1999
M J CARTER
Trustee in Bankruptcy

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NO: 259 OF 1998
IN THE LEICESTER COUNTY COURT IN BANKRUPTCY

... Dated this 12th day of February 1999
M J CARTER
Trustee in Bankruptcy

THE JACOB'S BAKERY LIMITED

... COMPANIES ACT 1985 THAT: ...

EUROPHONE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 3183487

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at ... One Great ... London W1H ... 1999 at 12.00 noon for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented. Place note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers ... not later than 12.00 noon on Thursday 25 February 1999 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated 12 February 1999
J. J. Schopfer, ACA, Joint Administrative Receiver

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
COLNE VALLEY CONSTRUCTION LTD
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

...

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AIRCOOL INSTALLATIONS LTD

...

TULLEYS OF CHELSEA LTD

Registered Number 1818288. Trading Name TULLEYS OF CHELSEA LTD. Nature of Business Furniture Retailers. Trade Classification 20. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s) 9 February 1999. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s) Midland Bank Plc. Names of persons appointed David A Rolph, Peter A Lawrence Sidcup House, 12 - 18 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent. Office Holder No. 5930 6829. Joint Administrative Receivers.

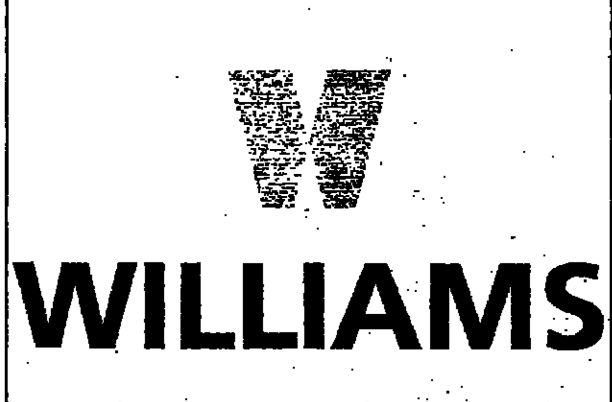
LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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CORPORATE PROFILE: Williams











Roger Carr, left, chief executive of Williams, denies any loss of activeness in Williams, whose logo, centre top, was attached to a variety of companies by Sir Nigel Rudd, top right, during building of the conglomerate. Senior management includes, bottom, from left, David Fielding, Tim Allen and Chris Davies

THE FACTS

Operations: Williams's businesses include Chubb alarms and security systems, Yale locks and Kidde and Sicli fire extinguishers.
Market value: £2.6 billion.
Operating profits: £161 million.
Turnover: £1.2 billion in the first half of 1998
(in 1997 it made £293.4 million operating profit from sales of £2.2 billion).
Employees: 38,000.

THE BOARD

Sir Nigel Rudd, 52, the chairman of Williams, had already made a fortune from property deals when, in early 1982, he and Brian McGowan, a friend and fellow accountant, paid £400,000 to take control of the ailing W Williams & Sons. He has chaired the company ever since. He has been unable, in two non-executive chairmanships, to repeat a successful turnaround of East Midlands Electricity at Pilkington, the glassmaker struggling in tough markets. He is also a non-executive director of Barclays.

Roger Carr is chief executive and is nine days older than his chairman. Tough-minded and attentive to detail, he originally headed the infamous special operations "hit squad" that descended on new acquisitions to strip out costs and make redundancies. He is a director of Bass and recently became chairman of Thames Water.

Chris Davies, 49, is responsible for worldwide operations and is the least well-known of the group's four "founders".

David Fielding, 47, the finance director, is the most recent addition to the Williams board.

The non-executive directors include **Sir Michael Bishop**, 57, the chairman of British Midland Airways and deputy chairman of Airtours; **Sir Victor Blank**, 56, the former Charterhouse chairman who is now chairman of Mirror Group and deputy chairman of Great Universal Stores; and **Sir David Rowe-Ham**, 63, a former Lord Mayor of London, who chairs Brewin Dolphin.

The longest-serving non-executive director is **Bill Rhodes**, 60, an accountant who has been on the board since 1982.

Sir Nigel Rudd is an adornment to any boardroom, and his stature as a fully fledged captain of industry has continued to grow throughout the 1990s. Yet Williams, the company that gave him that platform, has endured long years of middle-aged decline.

Its fall from favour may be a little harsh. Strengthened by its £1.3 billion acquisition of Chubb in 1997, Williams has become a security and fire-protection group that will soon report full-year pre-tax profits up to about £300 million.

However, to judge by the stock market, its performance over the past five years has been poor. Williams is still a spectacularly good investment for anyone who held the shares when Sir Nigel and Brian McGowan took control of a loss-making Welsh foundry in 1982. All the outperformance, though, came in the period to 1987, when Williams was pursuing the classic conglomerate strategy of buying poorly run businesses cheaply, stripping out their costs and turning them round. Its shares rose to the equivalent of 344p in October 1987. They were trading below 300p only last month.

At first, this looks perverse. The quality of the group's businesses is immeasurably better than when it was buying small engineering firms. Williams is well-managed and has adopted the fashions of the age, by focusing on fire and security, and by emphasising that it is increasingly a service business rather than a manufacturing business.

However, earnings have grown by only 20 per cent since 1993, giving a pedestrian compound rate of about 3.5 per cent a year. Blame lies partly with the low-growth home improvement businesses that Williams began to sell only last year.

Uncomfortably for Roger Carr, the underperformance began in earnest about the time he became chief executive in 1994. Mr Carr insists that the promotion was largely cosmetic: he joined Williams at the start of the Rudd era, when the group acquired the engineering business for which he worked. He became group managing director back in 1988.

Mr Carr rejects suggestions that the group has entered sedentary middle age. He points to the acquisition of Chubb, the sale of £1 billion of businesses and the £160 million spent on integration last year as evidence that "the group is as active now as it ever was".

He argues that the City has yet to catch up with the new reality of Williams, and particularly the amount of business it derives from its fast-growing security systems and services division. This embraces monitoring centres for intruder alarms and closed-circuit television systems, fire and security maintenance contracts and manned guarding.

Williams believes that this newly defined group should be able to beat international economic slowdown to achieve double-digit rates of growth — much more attractive than the 5 to 8 per cent growth that it expects from making locks and fire extinguishers, the bedrock of the substantially larger security products division. With services set to grow from 40 to 60 per cent of the group in the next couple of years, Williams suggests that it is at a pivotal point in its history.

Mr Carr says: "There is always going to be a lag between a company's past and what it has become. My whole experience is, as you keep delivering, the value comes through in stock market terms."

Unfortunately, the group has spent most of the 1990s trying to cast itself in a new light. After spectacular early successes with the acquisitions of J&HB Jackson and Rawlplug, the group made a trio of unsuccessful hostile bids, for McKechnie, Norcros and Racal Electronics. The resounding failure of the £700 million bid for Racal in 1991 was particularly costly, since the target then owned Chubb. The Racal defeat prompted Sir Nigel to declare that the days of hostile takeovers were over. He has more recently claimed that he was "the first person to realise ... that the conglomerate game was up".

So began the long transformation to give Williams focus. By mid-decade, it had become an international manufacturing group in fire protection (the Kidde extinguishers business was acquired in 1988), security (Yale & Valor came in 1991) and home improvement (in which brands included Rawlplug, Hammerite, Polyfilla and Swish curtain tracks).

The move out of home improvement recognised that the group's brands were national or, at best, European franchises. Security and fire protection were more international and offered the group greater control over pricing.

Williams has achieved good prices for disposals. It made a £107 million profit when it sold Polyfilla, Cuprinol and other brands to ICI for £350 million. It has still to sell Robbialac, a leading Portuguese paint company, which will be floated off later this year, and four regional paint companies in the US.

Some believe that Williams has the BTR malady — in which a management team that enjoyed great success by cutting costs again and again finds it hard to spend the money on marketing needed to produce sales growth.

And the longevity of senior management is striking. Like Sir Nigel and Mr Carr, Chris Davies, operations director, has been with Williams since 1982. Tim Allen, head of mergers and acquisitions, joined in 1984; David Fielding, finance director, in 1987; Robert Gasparini, head of the services business, in 1988; Bernard Brogan, who runs security products, in 1991; and Michael Harper, head of fire protection, in 1989.

Of the four non-executive directors, the newest recruit, Sir Victor Blank, joined in 1995.

Sir Nigel says that he does not believe that good managers find it hard to change their mindset, and he singles out Mr Gasparini as someone who understands growing businesses. Some of those who have left Williams are less sure and see looming management and succession problems. They say that senior managers face difficulties building a career in the face of the "proprietorial role" of Sir Nigel and Mr Carr.

Mr Carr is widely admired for his detailed grasp of operations, but is said to be autocratic and to find it hard to manage through people. "It's very difficult to build a team around him of the right quality," said one Williams graduate.

Including gains on options, Sir Nigel was paid a little more than £1 million in 1997, while Mr Carr received £795,000. The Crisp consultancy says that either could justify receiving £1.3 million, given their long experience, but that the combined total is "slightly excessive".

Integrity Works notes that the group regards the planned introduction of a statement of business principles as an important priority.

The new emphasis on services invites comparisons with Tyco International, the much more highly rated US group that is Williams's closest competitor. American investors, at least, are persuaded and have bought up 20 per cent of the stock over the past 18 months.

In part, Williams is a victim of the over-valuation it enjoyed during its swaggering heyday in the 1980s. Despite Mr Carr's assurances, and Sir Nigel's patience, the City still finds it hard to accept that the company has moved on.

PAUL DURMAN

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"They were seen to have paid too much for Chubb. The improvement in profitability that should have accompanied that strategic enhancement has failed to get delivered. They then blew themselves out of the water by admitting that they still needed to do further deals, talking about a deal with Tyco. Roger Carr's done an excellent job in pulling the group together, but there is no overwhelming reason why you would want to buy more shares." Andrew Darke, Williams de Broe

"In a sector where you've got fantastic growth from Serco, Capita and Rentokil, Williams has not been able to get the growth going. A very large proportion of their profits come from manufacturing. They have got to get the earnings growth from the service side." Robert Morton, Charterhouse Tilney

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	6/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	8/10
Financial record	5/10
Share performance	3/10
Attitude to staff	6/10
Strength of brands	8/10
Innovation	5/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	3/10
Future prospects	6/10
Total	58/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]Crisp Consulting.

Serious fraud doubles to £279m

By Robert Lea

SERIOUS frauds are more likely to be as a result of economic pressures on their perpetrators than the get-rich-quick scams of the mid-1990s, according to KPMG, the accountants.

KPMG will this week publish figures showing that serious frauds that came to the courts in 1998 doubled in size, with 60 cases of fraud totalling £279 million. In 1997 there were 55 cases, with a total value of £121 million.

Because of the time lag in getting the cases to court, 1998 cases hark back to the popularity of investment scams earlier in the decade. But Alex Plavsic, a fraud investigation partner at KPMG Forensic Accounting, said: "The frauds we are seeing today are of a different type — they appear to be the product of less prosperous times.

"I have seen numerous recent cases of accounts manipulation and management override in order to cover losses and maintain income and bonus levels by once-trusted managers who are under pressure to keep to targets.

"The tragedy often is that the personal gain to the manager far outweighs the loss of sales revenue and client confidence suffered by the victim company. Management should always be ready to act forcefully as soon as suspicions come to light to prevent losses from spiralling."

KPMG's figures show an upswing in serious fraud from two relatively quiet years. Mr Plavsic explained: "Last year's figures are dominated by the investment and pyramid, or 'ponzi', frauds, when we saw investors duped by schemes such as property timeshares and the Nigerian 'banks'.

"The lessons were clear: investors should not part with their money for the promise of returns which appear to be too good to be true."

KPMG has been collating fraud figures for ten years. The data reveal that the peaks were hit in the middle of the 90s, relating in many cases to events in the early years of the decade. The most cases of serious fraud — involving more than £100,000 — came in 1992, with a total value of £482 million. In 1995 there were 76 cases totalling £1.2 billion, but that included the collapse of Barings.

Morton poised to become head of rail authority

By Fraser Nelson

SIR ALASTAIR MORTON, the former co-chairman of Eurotunnel, is expected to be named head of the Government's new Strategic Rail Authority, possibly as early as today.

Industry sources believe that John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has decided to put Sir Alastair in place at the SRA in time for the rail industry summit that he has called for Thursday.

If all goes well, Sir Alastair will address the train industry figures who will attend the meeting — marking the first stage in Mr Prescott's plans to reform the railways.

Sir Alastair, 61, is expected to earn £120,000 for a 2½-day week and will have a say in appointing a new franchising director and rail regulator.

The new SRA will, in effect, be formed by a merger of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf) and British Railways Board, which still exists to sell land no longer used by the railway network.

However, it will officially be a "shadow" authority until Parliament passes laws to give it the kind of legal powers Mr Prescott wants.

Thursday's rail summit will, for the first time, bring together representatives of all 25 train operating companies (Tocs) with 50 representatives from rail users' committees. Speeches will be made by Mr Prescott, Dr John Reid, Minister for Transport, and Glenda Jackson, the junior Transport Minister. They will all take questions from the floor.

The Association of Train Operating Companies, which represents all Tocs, will be asked to report on progress made on the ten-point action plan agreed with Mr Prescott three months ago.

The Central Rail Users Consultative Committee (CRUCC) said: "What we're interested in is whether punctuality has improved, and we don't think it has. But these figures aren't due out for months, so we won't know."

Besides punctuality, the CRUCC has a list of demands which it is likely to spell out at the summit. They include:

- ☐ A simpler ticketing system, to avoid a "jungle" of different fares, where each operator makes its own special offer valid on a narrow range of days.
- ☐ New timetables, which will be better integrated to allow quicker connections.
- ☐ Train operators going into their rivals' territory — resulting in longer journeys which will reduce the need to change train.

City analysts are relaxed about the rail summit and believe that Mr Prescott does not have the powers to alter the financial system that has governed the rail network since privatisation.

One analyst said: "From an investor's point of view, the whole thing will be a stage-managed slap on the wrists for the train operators. Prescott can't make any meaningful changes without primary legislation, and this is not on the agenda."

Sir Alastair is seen as a City-friendly head of the SRA because he will understand the agenda of quoted companies. He has been seen as a favourite for the SRA job after he advised Mr Prescott on the rescue of the Channel Tunnel rail link.



Morton: seen as City-friendly

Tiddler offers free calls with a catch

By Chris Ayres

BRITISH consumers will this week be offered "free" international telephone calls for the first time, by a tiny American telecoms company with funding of just $10 million (£6 million).

The company, Cortex Telecom, will let customers make international calls between London, New York, Paris, Miami and Brussels for the price of a local call. It has struck a deal with COLT, the British telecoms company, to provide its service in London.

Cortex is funding the service entirely through advertising. To use the service, people must first phone Cortex, and anonymously answer about 20 questions on their shopping habits. They are then given an identity number, which they must enter when making calls.

When customers make international calls, they are interrupted every three minutes by 15 seconds of advertising based on their answers to the questionnaire. The quality of the calls suffers slightly because they are routed through so-called "IP telecoms" cables, used mainly for transmitting Internet data.

If customers want to, they can give Cortex their address and hit a button on their telephone's keypad during an advertisement to be sent more information by post. So far, Cortex has signed up about 25 advertisers worldwide.

Cortex was set up in 1995 by Leon Cohen-Levy, a 34-year-old entrepreneur who has previously invested in the property market and the software industry. Cortex plans to raise $50 million through a flotation on the Nasdaq stock market in the US later this year.

Mr Cohen-Levy said: "This service is going to change the face of the world ... I can already feel the heat from my investors."

Anger over tax queries

By Susan Emmett

THE Inland Revenue has been accused by leading accountants of double standards in a dispute over last-minute inquiries into self-assessment forms filed over a year ago.

Under the rules of self-assessment, the Revenue has up to a year to issue inquiry notices, starting from the deadline for the submission of the forms on January 31.

However, accountants have received a flood of notices dated January 29 after the end of the month. One firm said the flow was five times the amount received over the rest of the year. It is the first time the Revenue has sent out these notices under the new rules.

The dispute comes at a time when 650,000 taxpayers are facing automatic £100 fines for missing the self-assessment deadline for last January 31.

John Whiting, a tax partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said: "It seems there is one rule for the Revenue and another rule for us. The general view seems to be that notices should be received by January 31. Obviously there was a real flurry of notices coming out right against the deadline."

Some accountants have questioned whether notices that arrived after January 31 are valid and have threatened to ignore the request.

The Inland Revenue said there would be a consultation on the matter. An official said: "It was a bit of a learning process for us. We will be looking at what happened."

Record label signs top executive duo

THE fledgeling British record company that features artists ranging from the saxophone-playing King of Thailand to Kate Dimbleby, the jazz-singing daughter of the broadcaster David Dimbleby, has appointed two heavyweight business executives to help to raise an estimated £2 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The company, called Black Box, has appointed as chairman Tim Harrold, the former head of PolyGram Classics, who helped The Three Tenors to commercial success. It has also appointed Richard Burn-Jones, a former consultant for 3i, the venture capital group.

Black Box, run by Chris Craker, a 39-year-old former London Symphony Orchestra clarinettist, currently has about 25 classical and jazz titles in the shops and needs cash to expand its repertoire. In April the company plans to issue previously unreleased music by Elgar and a version of *Peter and the Wolf*, narrated by Joanna Lumley.

Jobcentres move on to the Internet for wider access

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOBCENTRES are to expand their operations out of the high street and into call centre and Internet services.

The move is part of a drive by the Employment Service to widen the access for job advertisers and the unemployed. In April a trial call centre will be launched for employers from the North East of England to contact with job vacancies. The centre's area will stretch from the Scottish borders to the Wash.

Specialised jobs, such as computer software experts, which may not find recruits locally, will be posted on the Employment Service's website.

Leigh Lewis, chief executive of the Employment Service, told *The Times*: "We are trying to offer a service that uses all means of communication. The face-to-face function of the jobcentre will always be necessary, but we need to find other ways to reach people, too."

The expansion follows the launch last month of a telephone service for the jobless — Employment Direct. Mr Lewis said the service, which updates people on jobs in their locality, has had a quarter of a million calls in six weeks.

The Employment Service's initiatives follow recent criticisms from business that it was failing their needs. Last month the Federation of Small Businesses claimed that it was ignoring them in administering the New Deal — the scheme to get young people into work through subsidised work places. The federation said that the Employment Service should be privatised if it could not perform a better service for business.

In a report published today, the service insists that the future of the operation is in public hands.

Mobility will be one of the aspects the Employment Service will concentrate on as it seeks to increase its placement of people in jobs and the number of vacancies it is given. Mr Lewis said he wanted to encourage the jobless to think beyond their immediate environment. He said: "It doesn't have to be very far away. It can just be a case of saying to people without jobs in Brixton that they can maybe think of work in the West End, which is only four stops on the Tube."

□ The first significant union recruitment drive following the Government's Fairness at Work legislation starts this week with a £1.8 million campaign by Unison, the public services union.

Unison, Britain's biggest union with 1.3 million members, is mounting a TV and radio recruitment drive for four weeks. A radio blitz on regional stations will mean that Unison adverts have about 250 slots a day for the month of the campaign.

All unions are expected to accelerate their recruitment drives in the wake of the Fairness at Work Bill, which gives unions rights of recognition and representation in disputes.



Peter Salsbury, chief executive of Marks & Spencer, which still enjoys high consumer loyalty

Troubled M&S keeps quality tag

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MARKS & SPENCER, the clothing market leader that lost its way badly over the winter, has retained its customers' faith in its quality and service but lost ground on perceptions of its range and prices, according to new research.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, says that half of clothing shoppers visit M&S, while more than a fifth use it as their main store. Even though Verdict's research was done in November, in the depths of M&S's sales slump, the company scored one of the highest loyalty ratings, along with Burton Menswear and River Island. The young customers of New Look, Top Shop and Top Man emerged as least loyal.

Based on a sample of 4,000 consumers, the study — *How Britain shops for clothing* — finds shoppers becoming less loyal to the clothing stores on which they have traditionally relied. Verdict says: "The penalties of getting fashion offers wrong emerge very quickly. With shoppers typically visiting four fashion stores on a regular basis, each company's customers are inevitably being shared."

Government encourages homeowners to take cover

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Government will tomorrow unveil proposals to encourage homeowners to insure themselves against the threat of illness or redundancy.

After consultation with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Association of British Insurers, the Government has devised a standard form of accident, sickness and unemployment (ASU) cover that it hopes will be more attractive to homeowners. The Government wants to simplify ASU because of the large part of the social security bill devoted to mortgage interest payments for the long-term unemployed.

ASU, also sold as mortgage payment protection insurance, is taken up by only a third of homebuyers. It is considered to be expensive — policies charge up to £6 for each £100 of cover — and to contain too many exclusion clauses. The plan is to increase take-up to 55 per cent.

Shell looks at solid gas

BY JASON NISSÉ

LEADING oil companies, including Shell, Total, Amerada Hess and Atlantic Richfield, are evaluating a project that could revolutionise the transport of natural gas and save the oil and gas industry billions of pounds.

Scientists in Norway have found a way of turning gas into a solid and have passed the results of this study to a consortium of backers in the energy industry.

According to *Fairplay*, the shipping trade magazine, the discovery by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim could render obsolete the current method of transporting gas — which involves cooling it until it forms liquified natural gas (LNG).

Oil companies have committed themselves to spend $4.5 billion (£2.7 billion) on 21 LNG tankers currently in construction and have spent tens of billions of pounds on LNG transporters in the past decade.

Aker Engineering, a Norwegian group, has conducted a feasibility study showing that the new system could cut gas transport costs by 24 per cent.

The new method turns gas into a slurry that can easily be stored on floating drilling platforms and transported on less-sophisticated tankers than LNG. It means that much smaller gas deposits can be drilled than is now the case.

Jon Gumundsson, of the university's research team, said: "This is an answer to a need that the oil companies have. We have developed a project that is technically feasible and economically very attractive."

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1998/99 High	Low	Mkt Cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
3¼	0¾	2.40	10 Grp	1	...	..	...
191	74½	13.90	AFA Systems	110	- 3½	..	..
133½	93½	12.30	AMCO Corp	95	...	9.2	7.1
157½	93½	6.14	ATA Group	94½	...	2.6	7.4
271	175	34.40	Access Plus	205	- 15	3.1	17.2
67½	44½	5.87	AdVal Group	44½	- ½	.	7.6
7¼	2	2.61	African Gold	2½	..	...	...
96½	36½	31.10	Albemarale & Bd	70	- 5	2.2	17.8
43½	24	8.88	Alizyme	25	.	...	...
102½	42½	10.20	Ambient Media	42½	- 1½	...	...
325	88½	7.56	Ambishus Pub Co	120	- 7½	...	15.5
108½	88½	33.00	Anglo Sibrn Oil	91	- 5½	...	...
119	72½	3.25	Anglo-Welsh	105	.	3.6	8.6
117½	58½	45.80	Antonov	59	...	...	...
110½	62½	15.50	Aortech	76½	...	...	...
100	80	4.42	Aram Resources	85	...	6.2	28.6
90	50	6.63	Archer Dedicated	65	..	...	...
5¾	3¾	3.12	Artisan (UK)	4½	..	...	...
465	236¾	101.60	Ask Central	447½	+ 20	0.3	39.5
72½	54½	1.00	Athelney Trust	55½	..	2.5	47.4
24¾	4½	11.50	Atlantic Caspian	6½	- ¼	...	.
68½	5½	4.56	Avalon Oil	6	...	...	...
202	124	62.50	BATM Adv Comms	201	- ½	1.5	..
238½	66½	11.90	BCD Technologies	86½	..	...	...
317½	133	20.90	BGR	134	- 3½	2.7	15.2
3¼	1	0.92	Bakery Services	1¼	...	...	...
115½	44½	22.20	Barbican Health	115	...	...	...
2	1½	3.30	Beechcroft	1¾	...	3.6	10.5
3¼	1	5.81	Beaufort	3	...	2.8	58.6
44	26½	5.43	Bickerton	35½	- ½	1.8	33.6
117½	49	0.78	Billam	49	- 2½	13.5	..
53¾	28½	2.36	[illegible]	35½	[illegible]	3.5	...
11½	0¾	7.08	[illegible]	1¼	[illegible]	[illegible]	15.7
44½	30½	18.20	[illegible]	36½	[illegible]	..	..
67½	5	0.60	Blakes Cloth	6	...	20.8	11.2
35½	27½	1.77	Bogod 'A'	30½	...	4.5	...
156½	68	12.40	Bond Intl Soft	91	...	...	22.1
325	235	2.21	Bowness Lels	315	...	3.0	13.5
37½	7½	2.40	Brancote Hldgs	11¾	- ¼	...	
105	60	2.52	Br Bloodstock	60	...	5.2	7.3
25½	9½	1.16	Buckland Invs	9½	...	...	...
12	6	0.05	Buckland Inv Wts	6	...	...	...
262	106	18.40	CA Coutts Hldgs	155	...	3.0	15.0
170	80	6.29	C & B Publishing	85	..	...	6.9
165	111½	1.50	CCI Hldgs	125	...	2.5	...
11½	7½	12.40	CCM Distribution	7½	- ½	...	12.9
79½	49½	3.19	CW Residential	72½	...	3.1	37.0
235	140	10.20	Cafe Inns	205	- 14	2.1	15.5
60	40	5.54	Caledonian Tst	45	...	...	5.6
19	5½	1.58	Cambridge Min Res	5½	- ¼	...	...
2½	2	3.38	Cambury Inv	2¼	+ ¼	..	35.9
0¾	0¼	0.68	Cambury Inv Wrts	0¾	...	...	...
87½	34	50.70	Card Clear	36	..	0.9	15.9
54½	35½	3.89	Carisbrooke Ship	38½	...	3.2	12.4
23	9¼	195.80	Carlisle	17¼	- 1½	..	45.4
12¾	4	4.09	Carlisle Wrts	10¼	- 1¼	...	...
55	32	1.76	Cassidy Bros	32	..	11.1	..
13	4¾	2.92	Celebrated Group	4¾	- ½	..	...
106½	71½	21.70	CI Comms(TV)	99	+ ½	3.3	17.5
86½	40	14.70	Charlton Ashl	41½	+ 1½	...	...
14¼	8¼	13.80	Charterhouse Cms	13¾	+ 1	3.2	11.5
115	66½	115.10	Chelsea Village	72½	- 2		51.9
29	13¾	117.70	Chorion	23	+ ¼	..	...
122½	96½	33.30	Citadel	100½	.	2.2	62.7
82	25½	8.37	City Gourmets	30½	+ 4	...	...
113	85	0.99	Clan Homes	110	+ 20	..	...
23½	8½	10.00	Coffee Rep	10½	- 2½	...	...
317½	117½	31.40	Comino	236	+ 15	2.0	16.6
569	142½	14.40	Computerland UK	156	- 19	1.5	19.0
19½	12½	9.69	Concurrent Tech	13¾	- ½	1.8	20.7
46½	28	7.20	Conister Tst	32	.	7.8	8.2
149½	127½	14.50	Connaught	149½	..	4.3	11.9
3¾	1½	2.34	Corporate Exec	1½	- ¼	...	...
15½	1	0.54	Crecs Intl	1¼	- 1	...	...
152½	113½	5.79	Cresco Intl	113½	...	...	30.9
230	77½	1.60	Crown Eye	100	..	15.6	...
42½	19½	6.02	Dalkeith Inns	29½	..	...	..
287½	129½	6.24	Dawn Til Dusk	130	...	4.0	9.8
403	170	15.10	Deep Sea Leisure	240	..	...	19.0
6¼	2¾	7.39	Denimaster	5	.	2.9	12.2
435	15½	6.75	Desire Petroleum	18½	+ 2	...	50.7
79½	52	7.86	Digital Anmtn	53½	..	...	...
32½	12½	10.30	Dimension Res	16½	- 1	..	...
18½	3½		Dimension Wrts	13½	- ½	...	..
27½	16½	2.74	Dinkie Heel	18½	..	10.8	6.9
135½	79½	7.61	Delyn Group	87½	- 1	3.6	14.7
45	18½	5.45	Dmatek	29	...	.	.
406	195	17.50	Dobbies Garden	265	+ 5	2.4	...
70	19½	2.48	Downtex	20½	.	..	10.6
263½	145	22.30	Dragons Health	185½	- 6	2.0	19.2
3¼	2	1.71	Drings of Bath	2	...	...	12.9
662½	217½	23.70	Durlacher	790	..	...	24.0
59½	34½	3.67	Eagle	37½	..	...	...
290	75½	48.00	Easynet	234	- 2	...	...
330	115	24.90	Elec Retail Sys	117½	- 15	...	...
103	70	19.70	Enterprises	72½	..	7.3	
27½	11½	5.59	Epic Group	24	- 1	...	24.7
45	45	14.10	Epicore Netwks	45	..	...	...
95	27½	2.25	Eurasia Mining	27½	...	...	..
3¼	2½	4.54	Fairplace Cons	3	- ¼	4.6	7.7
590	200	10.00	Farlake	386	- 3	1.3	...
62½	47½	12.20	Fayrewood	58	- 1	2.7	10.1
103½	20½	4.33	Fieldens	86½	..	...	...
117½	57½	13.00	Firestone Dmds	57½	...	...	...
160	95	4.16	Flomerics	160	..	2.3	26.5
100	30½	1.04	Floral St	32½	...	...	.
102½	57½	8.12	Formscan	72½	- 7	5.2	8.0
128½	99½	12.10	Fountain Forestry†	127½	...	12.0	17.9
205½	159½	11.90	Furlong Homes	180	+ 1½	4.4	5.5
99½	24½	4.44	Future Int Telec	40	+ 2½	..	..
301½	132½	15.50	GB Railways	176½	..	4.8	9.9
60	37½	6.60	GR Hldgs	50	...	2.5	14.3
12¾	4	15.70	GTL Res	9¾	...	...	...
179½	85½	64.80	Gartland W&B	97½	- 1	6.7	5.3
26¼	12	30.20	Gold Mns Sard	22	- 1¼	...	.
29½	29½	14.50	Golden Prospect	29½	..	..	...
70	15	12.10	Golf Club	25½	+ 8	..	...
171½	111½	21.70	Gooch & Housego	128½	...	1.7	17.9
25	9	2.86	Griffin Mining	13½	...	...	...
2¾	2	2.00	Grosmont Hldgs	2	..	...	13.9
1	0½	0.60	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	0½	.	..	
15	7¼	1.93	Grosvenor Ltd	8	.	..	25.5
181	160	47.80	Guston	181	+ 3½	3.7	13.6
6¼	3	1.92	Hansom	5	.	...	24.2
255	142	25.40	Hardy Undwtg	151	- 2½	5.4	6.4
2¾	0¾	13.80	Harford	1¾	.	.	
42	28	7.35	Hacas Group	28½	...	..	18.4
69½	44½	3.04	Hat Pin	67½	..	1.9	..
435	325	9.09	Heavitree	385		2.5	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	12.20	Heavitree A	290	- 6	3.3	..
105	55½	5.61	Helicon Pubg	95	...	...	
145	60	12.30	Highams Sys	85	+ 2½	1.9	10.9
135½	87½	7.70	Highland Timber	87½	..	...	...
90½	56½	17.50	Honeycombe Leisure	77½	...	...	12.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	1.60	Hurlingham	100	...	1.2	...
[illegible]	58	3.89	Hydro-Dynamic	58	...	8.4	12.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	5.97	IES	25½	...	..	...
290	145	12.20	I S Solutions	256	.	1.0	29.3
[illegible]	137½	162.00	Indpt Energy	897½	+ 5	.	..
85½	51½	9.58	Indpt Radio	53½	+ 1	...	..
332½	32	16.90	Infobank Intl	67½	- 1	..	...
36½	17½	6.00	Inner Workings	24½	- 3	..	...
125	32½	0.84	Integrtd As Mgt	32½	...	..	...
[illegible]	[illegible]	25.00	Intelligent Env	79	+ 1½	...	..
487½	330	25.30	Inter-Alliance	460	...	...	...
[illegible]	108	23.00	Interior Services	110	+ 2	3.6	11.7
159½	97½	5.35	Inter Link Foods	114½	..	2.2	9.7
189½	[illegible]	62.70	Internet Tech	138½	- 11½	...	.
647½	[illegible]	31.80	Intl Greetings	592½	+ 15	1.9	16.8
172½	23½	17.70	IOC Intl	57	+ 7½	..	
435	[illegible]	19.50	ITG Group	395	+ 12½	...	44.6
352½	172	23.70	JSB Software Tech	249	- 1	...	...
57½	40¼	8.06	James R Knowles	40½	- 3	4.9	13.8
43½	32½	3.26	Jardinent Ints	37	.	.	10.0
495	245	18.20	Jennings Bros	246½	- 3½	4.3	11.0
4	1½	2.81	J Lewis Hlord	2	...	6.8	14.7
62½	45	3.65	Jordec	41	- ½	...	9.6
46½	17½	3.94	Jumbo Intl	20	...	...	.
3	1	6.79	Just Group	1½		..	
42½	30½	3.51	Kern River	30½			
55½	11½	1.29	Keystone Soft	11½	- 1	..	...
25½	3		Keystone Wts	3	...		...
193½	136½	13.30	Kingfisher Ls	137½	.	2.1	14.0
55	42		LTG Technologies	42	- 3	.	8.2
260	95	6.49	Lady In Leisure	110	- 2½	2.3	9.5
260	122½	8.78	Landround	195	- 9	3.2	16.2
427½	370	25.90	Lawrence	370	..	3.0	12.3
5750	3750	80.80	Lawrie Group	4250	.	2.4	4.3
90¼	15½	1.77	Lepco	16½	...		...
415	296½	60.50	Linton Park	307	+ 2	9.5	3.6
495	305	6.10	Loades	305	..	0.5	...
31½	9½	4.80	Loftus Road	12	- 2	..	...
10¾	6¼	3.57	Lond & Edin Pub	10¾	..		...
125	75	3.98	London Town	75	...	3.8	5.1
51	7½	0.45	London Town Wrts	45		...	.
191½	127½	4.67	Longbridge Intl	141½	...	4.2	11.6
144½	33½	1.21	Longmead	33½	- 3	8.4	4.5
2	0½	1.75	Lotteryking	1		...	12.2
1	0¼	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
36½	20½	4.27	MMS Petroleum	35	...	.	...
1½	0¾	13.60	MV Sports	0¾	...	.	...
23¾	5½	7.34	Magnum Power	7¼	- ¼	...	
517½	267½	47.60	Majestic Wine	345	+ 35	1.8	20.7
12¼	4	8.42	Mano River UK	12	+ ¼	.	.
9½	4¼	4.54	Mans & O'seas	5¾			
55½	32½	4.81	Market Link Pb	32½	...	3.5	10.2
115	65	1.55	Marlb Hlthcare	57½	- 6½	5.6	
13¾	10¾	5.42	Mears Group	11½		3.5	8.7
38½	17	31.00	Medisys	18½	- ¼		...
65½	19½	15.00	Megalomedia	20½	[illegible]	1.6	22.8
56½	11½	0.74	Megalomedia Wts	12½			...
65½	33	4.88	[illegible]	33½			
114½	109½	13.90	Meteor Group	109½	...	..	18.7
115	80	4.08	Metrodome	80		...	.
191½	45½	37.70	Minorplanet	77½	- 1	...	.
86½	35	10.90	Mondas	86½	+ 21	.	..
380	195	28.10	Moorepay	240	+ 5	3.1	...
124	51	3.95	Mountcashel	52	..		4.3
70½	34½	9.45	Mulberry Group	45		4.2	.
3¾	2	2.07	MultiMedia	3		...	.
13¼	6¾	8.50	Murray Financial Corpn	8½	...		...
109½	107½	5.87	NBA Quantum	109½	...		11.2
15¼	8	0.58	NECA	8		3.1	.
71½	40½	26.90	NMT	68½	+ 2	...	..
135	52½	9.15	NRP	122	+ 7	...	29.6
375	160	28.30	Nsb Retail Sys	257½	- 4	0.3	30.0
225	140	17.10	NWF Grp	140	- 5	7.1	6.9
195	140	10.20	Nash (Wm)	145		6.9	5.6
5½	4¼	4.43	Nat Bldg Mils	4½	- ¼	...	.
105	105	2.10	Nat Bldg Prl	105		...	
90	40½	11.00	Netcall	56	...	...	
80	80	1.52	Norhomes	80	...	...	24.8
25	2	0.50	Nthn Petlm	2¼	..	...	
80½	45½	2.87	Northstar Sec	45½	..	.	24.7
55½	17½	0.35	Northstar Sec Wts#	17½	...	...	...
27½	27½	13.80	Offshore Tool & Energy	27½	.	...	
62½	50½	10.10	Old Monk Company	55½	..	...	15.1
285	12½	5.28	On Line	160	+ 5	.	...
227½	77	6.83	Optoplast	78½		2.4	9.0
24½	8	20.10	Oxford Biomedica	17	- 3	...	.
1¼	0½	9.81	Pacific Media	0½			...
39½	7	3.55	Pan Andean Res	7½	..	.	..
32½	16½	2.22	Parallel Picts	17½	- 1	..	...
245	220	5.28	Park Ests(Liv)	220	...	5.8	14.9
18½	8½	5.98	Pathfinder Props	8½	.	..	4.9
154½	77	8.98	Peel Hotels	153½	..	..	.
21	5½	4.03	Pembertons	8¼	...	..	..
183½	91½	8.48	Pennant Intl	128½	...	..	16.9
55½	34½	11.60	Personal No Co	43½	+ 3½	..	
155	58½	20.30	Petra Diamonds	60	..	.	
122	42	0.73	Petra Dmnds Wt	43½			..
30½	10½	7.09	Philippine Gd	10½	- ½	..	25.8
62½	10	3.20	Pilat Tech	13½	.	11.1	4.5
210½	162½	28.60	Policy Master Grp	202½		..	47.0
297½	117½	31.10	PolyDoc	152½	..	..	.
151½	46½	9.77	Polymasc Pharms	46½	- 1	..	
1½	0½	1.09	Pordum Foods	0½	..	..	...
1	0¾	0.16	Pordum Fds Wts	0¾		...	
16	10½	11.80	Premier Asset Mgt	13½	..		10.3
182½	160½	6.09	Premier Direct Grp	164½			5.3
7	2¾	120.00	Prestbury Group	3½	...	...	50.9
445	310	7.14	Preston Nth E	340			
75½	62½	4.68	Private & Comm	75½	+ 4	1.0	13.6
260	255	9.01	Property & Cap	257½	...		
46½	6¼	9.13	Proteome Scies	11¾	- ½	.	..
57½	45	1.85	Pubs n Bars	50	- 3½		
107½	47½	10.60	Pycraft & Arnold	68	+ 3	3.2	11.9
118½	69½	12.20	Q Group	70		0.9	11.2
847½	214½	66.70	Rartco Env	220	- 10	..	50.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

One American miracle at a time

The US economy has played the role of spender of first resort for the world. But American leaders are getting tired of it. as they doubtless managed to convey over the weekend at the G7 meeting in Bonn. Their European counterparts could content themselves with the thought that the Americans will not be able to gloat for much longer because strong US economic performance is unsustainable. But what will our fate be when the Americans no longer have reason to gloat?

There have apparently been two "miracles" in America — the one to do with demand and the other to do with supply. The first is a transitory mirage, but the second is real and long-lasting. It is not American asset prices and rampant consumption that show the way for Europe, but American investment and job creation.

Current US economic performance *is* unsustainable. Not only has the personal savings ratio turned negative, but the trade deficit with the rest of the world is high and rising. Moreover, there is a candidate explanation for these related phenomena, namely the tremendous rise in US stock prices. Saving is a fine thing, but it is especially attractive if you can get someone else to do it for you. Americans think that the stock market is doing it for them. As they watch the value of their assets rise, they can borrow for consumption without turning a hair. And they can both have fun and make money by trading on the Internet — in Internet stocks. This is America caught up in bubble.com.

If you take this view, it is tempting to believe that the whole edifice of US economic success is about to collapse. Yet consider what has happened to supply. For several years now, most economists have been gloomy about US growth prospects. They thought that even if demand carried on growing strongly because the American consumer kept on spending, as the rate of unemployment fell, inflation would resurge and the recovery would have to be choked off by higher interest rates. Yet unemployment continued to fall without inflation raising its head above the parapet. In fact, it fell. For good measure, it looked as though the trend rate of growth may have speeded up. The implication is that America can both grow faster and have less unemployment.

We cannot yet be sure of the reasons for this, but we do have the beginning of an explanation. It lies in the sphere of technological and organisational change — the vast investment in computers and communications technology and the impact of both technology and globalisation on the competitive climate. None of this has been remotely dependent upon the strength of consumer spending, and is only tangentially related to the strength of the stock market.



ROGER BOOTLE

True, if consumer spending were to weaken severely, perhaps prompted by a stock market collapse, then immediate economic performance would deteriorate. GDP growth would slow and perhaps even turn negative, but this would be simply a short-term demand phenomenon. It would not alter the fundamental improvement in growth trends and capacity utilisation. These improvements would be there waiting to show themselves again when demand recovered. And recover it would, helped, no doubt, by lower interest rates. Although you would not think it from current Japanese experience, boosting demand is relatively easy. Boosting supply capacity is the really difficult thing.

So the two "miracles" are different. But are they related? Is there any reason to suppose that the end of one would automatically undermine the other? There is one argument. It is that the apparent transformation of the US unemployment/inflation relationship is itself a mirage created by the depressed state of the world economy and the coincidence of a large trade deficit and a strong dollar. This has caused low commodity prices and low prices for manufactured goods entering the US. Take that away and inflation would be a good deal higher and that would set off higher wages. Moreover, if US consumption weakened severely, then the restoration of overall demand would require either a revival of the world economy or a lower dollar. Either of these would raise US inflation. So we would quickly be back to the old conditions. Those gloomy economists who had been giving warning that unemployment had already fallen below the natural rate would have the last laugh after all.

But I find this story difficult to buy. The unbalanced nature of the US economy, with consumption increasing so fast in relation to exports, has itself presented inflationary threats, not least in real estate. Weakness of consumption would ease those pressures while increased demand for US exports would raise demand in many sectors where costs do not rise with increased production. Higher commodity prices would cause inflation to be a bit higher, at least temporarily, but a post-industrial economy such as the US is not very vulnerable to commodity prices. Moreover, we now have umpteen examples of lower exchange rates causing remarkably little pick-up in inflation.

Let us hope that European leaders are not deceived into thinking that the US economic miracle is an illusion created by the bubble in asset markets. The US story has been of real economic improvement given rein by a strong increase in demand. In Europe, the past two years have seen continued economic failure disguised by a modest cyclical recovery. And from last Friday's German figures, it seems clear that even that is petering out. American asset prices may not be able to carry on rising to the stratosphere, but that does not undermine the remarkable performance of the American economy. One economic miracle is quite enough.

Alliances point way to a more prosperous Liffe

Revolution at the exchange is promising a brighter future, **Martin Waller** writes



Liffe has captured 86 per cent of all euro money market business and the volume of such trading has risen 16 per cent since January 1

The escalators that lead up to Liffe, the futures trading market at Cannon Street in the City, are long and steep. "Do not sit on the escalator," a sign says at the bottom. Such horseplay could be dangerous.

Instead, the preferred method of exit for some of the younger traders is to brace each foot against the metal sides at the top and slide down rapidly without allowing their feet to touch the treads. It, too, looks dangerous. It probably is. But Liffe is all about risk.

It is now six months since Brian Williamson arrived to take the chairmanship of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) at the low point in its 15-year history. The previous months had seen the board of Liffe in apparent paralysis, unable to stem the loss of business to Frankfurt.

The former Deutsche Terminborse, now united with the Swiss and Austrian exchanges and renamed Eurex, had stolen more than half the trade in one of Liffe's most actively traded contracts, the German government bond, by offering a screen-based dealing system.

In London, the decision to offer an electronic alternative to "open outcry", or face-to-face trading, had been taken in March. But critics said this was too little and too late.

By August it became obvious that the old guard could not stay. Mr Williamson, one of the founders of Liffe but then chairman of Gerrard, a Liffe member firm, was brought in, to be joined in October by Hugh Freedberg as chief executive.

"Clearly, in August, the huge priority was to dispel the thinking that Liffe was dedicated to open outcry and less committed to its electronic system," Mr Williamson said.

"The second thing was to make sure we brought on Connect [Liffe's electronic trading system] as fast as possible. We were clearly in a vulnerable area in relation to the euro.

"We made it very clear that this exchange regarded the move to electronic trading as something upon which its future depended. From there on, things started to get much better."

Mr Williamson's first response was to initiate a programme of consultation with members to find out exactly what they wanted. Meanwhile, the rolling programme to bring Liffe's various products on to electronic trading was brought forward.

"The previous regime had chosen the largest-volume contracts to go on machine first," he said, while saying that his remarks should not be taken as a criticism. "In an ideal world the decision would perhaps have been the other way around.

"There was no way you could reverse the process without extending the timetable. Clearly, it was better to reduce the time than change the order. By October we were beginning to get a feel that the Liffe Connect system for its first task, equity options, was looking quite good." Then came crunch day. Equity options went online for the first time on November 30.

In a low-key announcement ten days ago, the exchange announced a further acceleration. International bond futures contracts would trade electronically a month earlier than planned, and a firm date was set for several other products.

The new business figures that have been made available so far this year, though inevitably selective, are encouraging.

In January daily trade at the exchange was up 47 per cent from the previous month, helped by the launch of the Euribor Futures contract after the birth of the euro. Liffe has captured 86 per cent of all euro money market business, and the volume of such business has grown by 16 per cent since January 1.

The period since Mr Williamson's arrival has been marked by repeated rumours of alliances with various parties, including other exchanges and, according to one story, even with Frankfurt, a suggestion given added strength by last summer's link between the London Stock Exchange and the German equities market there.

Mr Williamson has been seeing a number of parties identified as possibly interested in alliances or joint ventures. By the end of next month a full list will have been drawn up, and before that he is unwilling to comment.

Williamson: future links

Links could be merely a matter of making screen dealing through Liffe's Connect system more freely available elsewhere — indeed, he is talking down the possibility of merging directly with other trading exchanges, once seen as the most likely option. "It may be old-fashioned to say that exchanges will survive by putting two, three or four of them together."

One option, clearly favoured by Mr Williamson, is a merger with the London Clearing House, which settles business for banks and other traders, and in which Liffe already has a 17 per cent stake. "I think one of the best things that has happened since I have been here is the LCH rapidly becoming the international clearing house of choice," Mr Williamson said. "We need to ensure that the LCH is the global players' choice, that it is the place they settle at the end of the day." Observers, however, cast some doubt on how keen the LCH might be on such a merger.

Although it is too early to see what the future shape of Liffe will be, those post-euro turnover figures at least allow a mood of quiet triumphalism at Cannon Street. But one event shows how fast such a mood can evaporate. Just before Christmas a rogue trader dealing in German government bonds racked up more than £6 million in losses, putting the jobs of as many as 100 sole traders at risk and leaving them with substantial losses.

The Griffin affair is still the subject of investigation by the authorities, although at least some of the blame rests with Eurex, the renamed Frankfurt exchange through which the deals were done.

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, it will strengthen calls for stronger regulation at derivatives exchanges. Those who lost money have been assured they will see at least 80 per cent of it back, and it has become clear that regulation on Liffe is already far stricter than at Eurex. In this at least, the damage from Griffin has been limited.

This Thursday's extraordinary meeting will be a further step on the way to a stock market flotation for Liffe. "It's a start towards a shareholders' exchange. We're trying to get a business culture in the exchange, not a membership culture," Mr Williamson said.

One of the most vociferous critics of the old regime was David Kyte, of Kyte Group, who resigned from the Liffe board. Kyte Group is now firmly convinced that the future lies in electronic trading — whatever this means for Liffe as we know it.

Paul Wise, a director of Kyte Group, is persuaded that there has been a change for the better at the exchange: "There was a fear of making the wrong decision, so no decisions were being made. Now they're pushing screens as hard and as fast as they can. I think over ten to 20 years the size of the market will explode. Over the years it will need a new set of skills, and some of the people on the floor won't make the transition."

TELEVISION CHOICE

Three's company

Births, Marriages and Deaths
BBC2, 9.00pm

Here is a terrific three-part drama by Tony Grounds (*Our Boy* and *Sex and Chocolate*). Adrian Shergold (who made *Holding On*) directs a very strong cast, headed by Ray Winstone, Mark Strong and Phil Davis as lifelong best mates in East London. On the eve of Strong's wedding (to a heavily pregnant mother with two boys by her previous husband), they go on an all-day stag do which ends in a way that is a catalyst for profound changes in all their lives. Winstone is magnificently leery and overbearing, Davis utterly convincing as the turning worm, Strong both touching and impressive in his devotion to his new family. Add great work by the wives — Maggie O'Neill, Tessa Peake-Jones and Michelle Fairley — and slick editing, and you have a guaranteed gripper of an opening episode which the second and third will have difficulty surpassing.

To the Ends of the Earth
Channel 4, 8pm

What a bright idea: take Lord Porchester, the great-great-grandson of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, to Egypt to visit the tomb of Tutankhamun, which the old boy and Howard Carter discovered in 1922. Carnarvon died, weeks later, of septicaemia — cursed, they said, for his desecration. Lord P, the first family member to risk reviving the curse, goes out to visit the family's archaeologist (you mean you don't have one?) as he excavates a rather less spectacular tomb near King Tut's, in search of fresh artefacts for the collection at the family seat, Highclere. Adrian Wiley, who manages Highclere and is far grander than his master, provides much of the entertainment in an intriguing film.

Rough Guide to the World: Bolivia
BBC2, 7.30pm

There are new presenters, Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis, for a new series of the cheap-and-cheerful holiday show (not always cheap or cheerful, but always "with attitude", like Tube buskers or some *Big Issue* vendors). Tonight's country, Bolivia, is one of the least touristy and developed countries of South America: poor, beautiful and bordered by Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Paraguay. It has rich mineral resources and also produces quite a lot of cocaine. The presenters concentrate on the mountains, lakes and the mining, but can't entirely ignore the coca.

Ray Winstone and Mark Strong in *Births, Marriages and Deaths* (BBC2, 9pm)

Mrs Merton and Malcolm
BBC1, 8.30pm

Caroline Aherne and her co-writer on *The Royle Family*, Craig Cash, star in a strange new sitcom which they have written with Henry Normal. Only child Malcolm is 37 and still living at home in suburban Stockport. He appears either educationally subnormal or "simple", quite often absenting himself from work (Mrs Merton phones in sick for him). Mrs Merton dotes on him but is oddly offhand about Mr Merton, who is confined to the conjugal bed, upstairs, visible as a shape under the covers but never speaking on camera. The only visitor is Mr Capstick (Brian Murphy), who has a dodgy ticker and repeats himself endlessly. There are some good lines, but the whole thing is eerie rather than funny. **Tony Patrick**

RADIO CHOICE

Silent Sentence
Radio 4, 8.00pm

The woman whose recollections start this series sets the tone for an absorbing programme that will challenge many preconceptions: "It wasn't that I couldn't face people," she says, "it wasn't that I was ashamed, I just couldn't stop crying." The reason for her distress was that her husband had been sent to prison. The series focuses on what happens to families when one of their number is jailed. We hear much about crime and sentencing, not much about the victims of crime within the families of those who are jailed. Some of the points made are subtly important: prisoners may earn extra visits through good behaviour, but that only increases the tension if families cannot afford the travel costs to distant prisons.

The Late Book
Radio 4, 12.30am

The first of a five-part abridgement of *If They Move . . . Kill 'em*, David Weddle's biography of Sam Peckinpah. Tonight's opener contains a deceptively simple sentence: "Americans have never known what to do about Sam Peckinpah." The book recalls the 1969 opening of *The Wild Bunch*, when some members of the audience ran screaming from the cinema. In Europe, Peckinpah already had a considerable reputation as a director but it was *The Wild Bunch* that made his name — and his notoriety — in the US. I have never been able to decide between honest violence and gratuitous violence as the correct label for some of Peckinpah's work, but he is revealed here as caring and thoughtful. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Scott Mills **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Jo Whiley **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce. Medley of hits **8.00** Lamacq Live. Featuring Stereophonics, and the Essential Album is Blur's *Parklife* **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Emma B **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** John Inverdale **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Big Band Special **8.30** Jools Holland (4/13) **9.30** Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll (5/10) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Dream Teams. New series. Jim White chats to celebrities who live for football **8.00** John Inverdale's Football Forum. With the Charlton Athletic striker Mark Bright, the Wimbledon midfielder Robbie Earle and the Brentford manager and chairman Ron Noades **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Let's Talk Soap **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** This Woman Thing **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Record News **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** Health Matters **9.00** World News **9.05** Westway Access **9.20** The Vintage Chart Show **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** The Farming World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Pick of the World **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Health Matters **2.30** Meridian **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Record News **3.30** Composer of the Month **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Warm World **7.00** World News **7.05** Health Matters **7.30** Clouded Hills **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Hit-List **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Health Matters **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Westway **1.45** Record News **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Warm World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Markham presents listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Milhaud (*Le Boeuf sur le Toit*) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky (1812 Overture), Scarlatti (Salve Regina); Haydn (Symphony No 86 in D); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat) **11.00** Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music **2.00am** Concerto. Milhaud (Le Boeuf sur le Toit) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Music and arts news with Petroc Trelawny, including a review of the British stage premiere of Delius's opera *The Magic Fountain*
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Fasch (Bassoon Concerto in C minor), Schubert (Piano Sonata in D, D664); Strauss (Don Juan)
10.30 Artist of the Week This week, Joan Bakewell talks to French pianist Pascal Roge
11.00 Sound Stories: Planets Richard Baker explores music associated with Jupiter
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Aaron Copland
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall. Boris Berezovsky, piano. Chopin (Ballade No 3 in A flat, Op 47); Liszt, after Auber (Tarantelle di Bravura); Rachmaninov (Moments Musicaux, Op 16, excerpts); Ravel (La Valse)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky. Tasmin Little, violin. Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D), Shostakovich (Symphony No 11, The Year 1905)
4.00 Opera in Action with Robert Lloyd
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty, including Holst's *Fugal Concerto* performed by the English Chamber Orchestra, under Imogen Holst
7.30 Performance on 3: Beyond Our Shores (Sounding the Century) The first concert in a special week-long series from Glasgow which focuses on the influence of non-Western sounds on the European and American classical tradition. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under En Shao. Revueltas (Sensemaya); Tan Dun (Orchestral Theatre No 1); Takemitsu (The Dorian Horizon); Bartok (Suite: The Miraculous Mandarin)
8.40 Postscript: Doctors of Philosophy — Epicurus Alain de Botton looks to some of the great thinkers of the past (1/5)
9.00 Joao Rodrigues Esteves The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, director Stephen Darlington, perform music by Portuguese composer Esteves (r)
10.00 Voices Iain Burnside presents the first of two programmes featuring the baritone Simon Keenlyside with Malcolm Martineau, piano
10.45 Mixing It Leo Feigin talks to Mark Russell and Robert Sandall about his passion for new music
11.30 Jazz Notes The pianist Benny Green talks to Alyn Shipton and leads his own quartet at the Bull's Head in Barnes, London
12.00am Composer of the Week: Antonin Dvorak (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod **1.00** Beethoven (String Quartets in B flat, Op 18 No 6, in E flat, Op 74, Harp, in B flat, Op 130) **2.35** Poulenc (Organ Concerto) **3.00** Schools. Music Box **3.15** Something to Think About **3.30** EAL: Let's Make a Story **3.45** Stories and Rhymes **4.00** Find Out **4.15** Maths Challenge **4.30** Hopscotch **4.45** Scottish Resources 7-9 **5.00** Beethoven (Wellingtons Sieg) **5.20** Bach (Cantata No 35) **5.45** Ravel (La Valse

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
9.00 Start the Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Spirit Wrestlers Part one. Philip Marsden seeks the forgotten radicals of post-Soviet Russia
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From St Martin's, Belfast
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests
11.00 Tuning into Children Kirsty Wark looks at how children develop a sense of their own identity (2/6)
11.30 King of Bath First of a six-part comedy series about a wealthy heiress who joins a group of travelling players. With Elry Thomas, Andrew Wincott and Peter Gunn (1/6)
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories, with Liz Barclay and John Waite
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Last heat of the music quiz
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Hush Phelim Rowland's tale of slavery in the 19th century. Anyon Bakare and Kenneth Cranham star
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 Vincent Duggleby takes listeners' calls on financial issues
3.30 A View with a Room A look at the small hotel in one of Scotland's wildest and most remote places — Rannoch Moor (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 36 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Derek Cooper examines the emergence of gourmet soup bars (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world
5.00 PM Presented By Clara English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Paul Merton, Tony Hawks, Clement Freud and Peter Jones try to speak for 60 seconds without hesitation, repetition or deviation at the Radio Theatre, London
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama by Tim Jackson, starring Rachel Atkins and Lesley Carvello. Broadcast as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Silent Sentence New series. Peter White investigates the repercussions of crime on the perpetrator's family, beginning with the pressure prison puts on a marriage. See Choice (1/3)
8.30 Analysis Peter Kellner asks how electoral reform will affect voter choice and government policy
9.00 Nature Dr Gillian Rice determines the full effects of caffeine
9.30 Start the Week Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Part six of Patrick O'Brien's nautical novel
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Polly Toynbee speaks on behalf of The Fover Federation (r)
11.02 Fear on 4: Net Suicide Stephen Wyatt's thriller about a City dealer facing ruin. Starring Gerard McDermott, Tracy-Ann Oberman, David Brooks and John Rowe (r)
11.30 (FM) Airs of England Harpist Elisabeth Jane Baldry joins Richard Coles to explore Victorian fairy music, popular with royalty and the nouveaux riches. Fairies in the Garden (2/4) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Sam Peckinpah: If It Moves — Kill 'Em Bill Hootkins reads the first part of David Weddle's biography of the film director. See Choice
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

SNOOKER Merciless Hendry puts Dott firmly in his place

Loyalty taken to a barbaric extreme

They are always some mother's son, aren't they? They are only human, after all, just like you and me. And they want you to understand. **Loyalists** (BBC2, Sunday), the first of Peter Taylor's three-part investigation of Ulster's Protestant paramilitaries, was one of those "difficult" documentaries where television confronts people who have done unspeakable, unforgivable things and hears what they have got to say for themselves.

Among their little achievements was the murder of an Irish Senator, Paddy Wilson, and his female companion. He was stabbed 30 times, his throat slit from ear to ear. Years later the man who did it, John White, went to Downing Street as the leader of a Protestant paramilitary delegation and shook hands with John Major.

Then there was McGurk's bar. "One bomb, 15 funerals" it was recalled. The clientele were Catholics, so clearly nationalists, so clearly supporters of the IRA, self-evidently intent on forcing secession on the Protestants. Then there was the 17-year-old boy, plucked at random from the Catholic population, and shot without hesitation, pity or remorse.

Documentaries like this walk a tightrope. The purpose is to understand, so the murderers must be questioned in a calm, rational, non-confrontational way, without appearing actually to be sympathetic. Peter Taylor achieved this by quietly inviting them to reflect on what they had done.

But the programme found other ways of letting us know what Taylor and co thought. The title sequence, for instance, was a montage of sinister images in some dark, dank, secret room, which ended with a livid red hand of Ulster smashing through a pane of glass towards the viewer's face. Each talking head appeared against a pitch black background as if they were all lost in their own private darkness.

Some of them seemed to regret what they had done, but most were unrepentant, or had adopted that televisual trick of discussing their own actions as if they were talking about someone else. All wished to explain their anger and what seemed to them the inevitability of their decisions. If we didn't get it, that was our problem.

Perhaps now they have seen the final programme they will feel cheated. They may well feel that Taylor had an agenda. The intercutting of a simple historical chronicle, which did not dwell on IRA atrocities, highlighted their deeds as a series of massive over-reactions, so unreasonable as to appear paranoid,

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

so vicious and cruel as to appear psychotic.

The one thing you can say in these men's favour is that, repentant or not, they did not try to disguise what they had done or pretend that they were victims of forces beyond their control. "My decision and made by me and me alone," said Jim Light of a cold-blooded murder. "I pulled the trigger." Their ghastly candour gave the programme an extraordinary force, and provided a sickening contrast to the mealy-mouthed not-me-guvvery of Dr Ian Paisley. Confronted with the fact that close followers of his political organisation and a member of his church had committed various atrocities, he first equivocated: "Closely involved with me? I don't know whether you can say that or not..." then washed his hands: "I can't be responsible for everybody that's in a church that I pastor or an organisation that I lead."

It surely cannot be an accident that this series arrives at a time when the issue of decommissioning weapons has sparked a bitter debate among the Protestant politicians. It certainly won't help the hardliners as they tussle with the moderates over the soul of their community.

Northern Ireland is Britain's little slice of the Balkans, a never-ending ricochet of pre-emptive strikes, unsettled scores and lovingly nurtured grievances. Before the resurgence of "the Troubles" in the late 1960s the province had the lowest crime rate in the UK. I spent a long summer there in 1967 with the family of a friend in Ballymena. We got occasional glimpses of the lurking sectarian hatred, but in general I was stunned by the warmth and hospitality we met everywhere.

It seems impossible that such kind, friendly people could treat each other with such barbarism, except that there is probably a little concentration camp guard lurking in the murky depths of our souls, which will pop out as and when it is given an excuse to do so. Fortunately there is also an angel of mercy buried in there somewhere too.

Angels of mercy were flapping about all over the place in **Comic Relief's Great Big Excellent African Adventure** (BBC1, Sunday). It is easy to be cynical about celebrities and their charity work. You could say that there is little difference between "alternative" comedians doing good in the developing world and the old variety turns polishing their egos on underprivileged kids back home.

And it would be easy to find the forced wackiness of Lenny Henry and his co-presenters deeply irritating. But how do you describe the plight of landless South Africans or the children of Zanzibar without sounding sanctimonious or pious? The message that these are ordinary people in extraordinarily difficult circumstances, who need help to help themselves rather than hand-outs, cannot be repeated often enough. I don't know which was more awe-inspiring, the gorgeous landscape of Lesotho or what Ruby Wax can do with her tongue.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (72700)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98629)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8725209)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4051984)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6296648)
11.00 Change That (6206025)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6103984)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1386071)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (92396)
12.30 Wipeout (7916713)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48922735)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (91716)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47644803)
1.40 Neighbours Toadie gets a double surprise (T) (25530358)
2.05 Ironside (r) (3687919)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (5931209)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6854938) **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop (2731822) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (3708613) **4.10** Pocket Dragon Adventures (4751803) **4.20** Anthony Ant (6202613) **4.35** Misery Guts (5619803) **5.00** Newsround (2086071) **5.08** Rewind (5041261) **5.10** Blue Peter (6638613)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (722984)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (261)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (613)
7.00 This is Your Life (T) (8938)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Alleged medical discrimination against children born with spinal problems (T) (975)
8.00 EastEnders Conor decides to go after Ruth (T) (4358)



Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash as the Mertons (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE ***Mrs Merton and Malcolm*** New series with Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash (1/6) (T) (6193)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1629)
9.30 Animal Police Trainee Dave and Inspector Phil have to deal with a flea-ridden dog (T) (14006)
10.00 Panorama A report on the current meningitis scare (T) (650193)
10.45 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia The comedian climbs the Sydney Harbour Bridge (r) (T) (708984)
11.25 Smith and Jones (r) (T) (279532)
11.55 The Day of the Evil Gun (1968) A rancher returns to the homestead only to find his wife and child have been kidnapped by Indians. With Glenn Ford. Directed by Jerry Thorpe (T) (238990) FILM
1.25am Weather (5185101)
1.30 BBC News 24 (8763781)

WALES

10.00 Labour of Love (T) (93025) **10.30 Panorama** (T) (539396) **11.15 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (r) (T) (673464) **11.55 Smith and Jones** (r) (T) (975984) **12.25am FILM: The Day of the Evil Gun** (3935385) **1.55 News and Weather** (T) (8260014) **2.00-6.00 BBC News 24** (5656255)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Ness (3982358) **7.05** Teletubbies (6720700) **7.30** Snorks (8027713) **7.50** Blue Peter (6665087) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7771648) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3750396) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (3749280) **9.00** Space Ark (6081223) **9.10** Short Circuit (4570193) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (1662938) **9.45** Storytime (1650193) **10.00** Teletubbies (85667) **10.30** Words and Pictures (2657087) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2572342) *11.00* Look and Read (9455103) *11.20* Zig Zag (8946919) **11.40** Landmarks (8347803) **12.00pm** Job Bank (7885938) **12.10** History File (9313716) **12.30** Working Lunch (29984) **1.00** Romuald the Reindeer (94905025)
1.10 The Travel Hour Venice's history and culture (r) (9669087)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61715396)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3077174)
2.45 Match of Their Day Former Liverpool striker Ian St John (8/16) (r) (T) (2524716)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (9208434)
3.30 Awash with Colour Carlingford (919)
4.00 Kaye Advice show (6935209)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6938396)
4.55 Esther People who believed they were ugly as children (T) (3272377)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (990)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (T) (206984)
6.15 The Simpsons Bart claims he is the son of a hardened drinker (T) (929803)
6.40 Space 1999 An interstellar slave trader lands on Alpha (T) (522938)
7.30 CHOICE **Rough Guide to the World** New series with Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis (1/6) (T) (667)
8.00 Raising the Roof Paul Kenyon investigates the murkier side of the mortgage industry (5/6) (T) (2700)
8.30 Food and Drink Jilly Goolden samples Muscat wines (T) (4735)
9.00 CHOICE **Births, Marriages and Deaths** Ray Winstone, Philip Davis and Mark Strong head the cast of this new drama series (T) (643377)



A short film about the traditional English breakfast (9.50pm)

9.50 10x10: New Directors Offbeat film about the traditional fry-up (r) (808025)
10.00 If I Ruled the World (91667)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (537938)
11.15 In the Red Corner Examining the campaign for leadership of the Welsh assembly (T) (671006)
11.55 Weather (837990)
12.00am Despatch Box Steve Richards presents the political discussion (89168)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: A Tale of Two Capitals — Paris and Rome **1.30** Pilgrimage — The Shrine at Loreto **2.00** Schools: Special Needs **4.00** Languages: Italianissimo 5-8 **5.00** Business and Training: Skills for Work **5.45** Open University: Siena Cathedral **6.35** Paris — Spectacle of Modernity

5.30am ITN Morning News (98280)
6.00 GMTV (4711290)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5185735)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11119342)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7788071)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (29938)
1.00 Shortland Street Johnny is put on the spot (13984)
1.30 Home and Away Tiegan blames herself for Joey's illness (T) (28209)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5503174)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (280532)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (1006416)
3.20 HTV News (T) (4256939)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5406272) **3.35** Kipper (3895193) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (3882629) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (3064280) **4.20** It's a Mystery (3977700) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (5633483)
5.10 WEST: Getaways Local celebrities report on their favourite holiday destinations (r) (T) (9941803)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners A perfume bottle collection (T) (9941803)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (426803)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (928174)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (638938)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (918342)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (209)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (427280)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Reports from Chicago, northern Thailand, Croatia and the Costa Blanca (T) (3006)
7.30 Coronation Street Rosie has an accident (T) (193)
8.00 Trauma Team May Day revellers hit the streets of Oxford (6/6) (T) (2754)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes Carol Vorderman and her team of handymen visit the Cornish resort of Falmouth (8/10) (T) (1261)



Ian Hogg stars as the retired policeman Dexter Alan (9pm)

9.00 Forgotten Dexter threatens to go to the police with what he knows, but before he can, a tragedy occurs, giving the case a new twist (2/3) (T) (1731)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (88193)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (829551)
10.40 Nash Bridges Nash helps out an old friend (T) (629358)
11.40 Midnight Caller A convenience store owner misinterprets Jack's warning to protect himself (765919)
12.40am Football Extra Football League highlights (2663656)
1.40 World Football (r) (3790138)
2.10 In the Shadow of Evil (1995) A detective's ability to solve a case is impaired by a bout of amnesia, so he enlists a neurology expert to help him. Directed by Daniel Sackheim (994323) FILM
3.45 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (270491)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (85883033)
5.00 Coronation Street *(r) (T) (74897)*

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8250803) **1.00 High Road** (13984) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1354464) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (281261) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (4256939) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9941803) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (638938) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (829551) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (765919) **2.10am FILM: The Comedy of Terrors** (6948439) **3.30 Trisha** (r) (T) (42694) **4.30 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (8643149) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7096304)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7788071) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8268822) **1.00 High Road** (T) (13984) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1354464) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (281261) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4256939) **5.08 Birthday People** (5043629) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9941803) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (43759) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (829551) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (765919)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7788071) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9941803) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) ([illegible]9) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (T) (209) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (829551) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (765919) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (74897)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8279938) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8250803) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9941803) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (679396) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (646342) **6.50-7.00 Take it On** (156280) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (940735) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (829551) **11.40 Videotech: Brit Winners Special** (769416) **12.10am-12.40 The Making of Very Bad Things** (r) (6643472)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (53197321) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34859396) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (83810261) **9.25 Schools at Work** (43156280) **9.30 Geography Junction** (94977667) **9.45 Book Box** (94965822) **10.00 Ble Ar Y Ddaear?** (20206984) **10.15 Scotscapes** (20392735) **10.30 Place and People** (69663919) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (21650990) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (95227532) **11.15 The Mix** (95240483) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (T) (40331377) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (29241990) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38896377) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34852483) **1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman** (T) (38895648) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (79507209) **3.00 Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan** (T) (6420175 4) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81784261) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81703396) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (81792280) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64100071) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81783532) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54095754) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16961261) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64293735) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81700209) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (64202483) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (64281990) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (40247984) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (56611532) **10.35 Cutting Edge** (T) (19371714) **11.35 FILM: Scam** (T) (69025241) **1.30am In Search of Law and Order** (T) (96448965) **2.30 Diwedd**
4.00 Ysgolion:

5.25am Rat-A-Tat-Tat (T) (2898532)
5.40 The Pink Panther (3524822)
5.55 Sesame Street (3366735)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (14667)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme (4526261) **9.25** Schools at Work (6838822) **9.30** Geography Junction (1657006) **9.45** Book Box (1645261) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9881174) **10.15** Scotscapes (9804025) **10.30** Place and People (7604822) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (3337990) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (8857071) **11.15** The Mix (8943822)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (8532)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (85006)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (10280)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (17754)
1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman How changes in the marine environment could affect the future (T) (25454984)
1.55 Earthscape (r) (31796984)
2.00 The Night We Got the Bird (1960) A recently married man becomes convinced that a parrot is the reincarnation of his wife's last husband (T) (32261) FILM
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (777)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (822)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5530342)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (3267445)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (358)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (241)
6.30 Hollyoaks Kate prepares to meet her real father (T) (551)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (380174)
7.50 Transition: Lagos Stories The film-maker Stella Orakwue's portrait of modern-day Nigeria (T) (919006)



Adrian Wiley (left) and Lord Porchester in Egypt (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE **To the Ends of the Earth** New series. Lord Porchester, a descendant of Lord Carnarvon, retraces the 5th Earl's footsteps to the tomb of King Tutankhamun (1/6) (T) (8667)
9.00 Cutting Edge Cameras follow the strict regime facing teenage delinquents at Britain's only boot camp (8803)
10.00 Scam (TVM 1993) A female con artist tires of fleecing wealthy men of their money. Thriller, starring Lorraine Bracco and Christopher Walken. Directed by John Flynn (T) (887731) FILM
11.55 Shooting Gallery Short films, Flying Saucer Rock (960667)
12.15am Wet Work The harsh realities of prison life (6782410)
12.30 Final Cut Comedy (7001762)
12.35 Stiletto A young boy's uneasy relationship with his aunt (2453120)
1.10 True Stories (r) (T) (3582304)
2.25 Right to Reply (r) (T) (7465965)
2.55 The Client (r) (1298101)
3.45 Drip Chilling story of a woman overcome with loneliness and fear (19225830)
4.00 Schools: Channel Hopping Auf Deutsch 14-19 (231052) **5.40** Schools at Work (9832526)

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (6136342)
7.00 WideWorld Part two. How parents and children can prepare for the transition to formal education (r) (T) (6674483)
7.30 Milkshake! (9793957)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3836209)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4602483)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4601754)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (1394990)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7029261)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6772445)
10.20 Sunset Beach Has Maria regained her memory? (T) (1789938)
11.10 Leeza (4181261)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4509342)
12.30 Family Affairs Roy releases Claire (r) (T); 5 News Update (9624716)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful The girls fall out over Ridge (T) (6673754)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertaining chat with the Emmy Award-winning comedian; 5 News Update (9623087)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5879716)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums*, Eric Knowles with *Selling the Family Silver* and word game *Cryptogram*; 5 News Update (1422396)
3.30 A Fine Madness (1966) Sean Connery stars in this satirical comedy about an outspoken poet who decides on a radical course of action to find somewhere peaceful to write. Directed by Irvin Kershner (T) (9416358) FILM
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (4447939)
6.00 100 Per Cent The computer-generated quiz (6029261)
6.30 Family Affairs Claire visits Roy in hospital (T) (6947613)
7.00 5 News; Weather. Kirsty Young rounds up the day's stories (T) (5873532)
7.30 Champions of Nature The so-called Canine project in the Banff National Park which aims to re-establish wild wolf packs in the area (T) (6049025)
8.00 Instant Gardens Jac Flower transforms the garden of Melinda Messenger's 17th-century house in Wiltshire, creating a traditional country plot with a few unusual touches (T) (5882280)
8.30 Animal ER David Kerr is called out to treat a goat with cancer, while a dog with a weight problem and a damaged tendon requires surgery (T) (5878087)
9.00 Making the Cut An apparently motiveless assault on a farmer in an Irish coastal town leads two detectives to Dublin, where they uncover a ruthless drugs ring. Award-winning drama shown in three parts, starring Sean McGinley, Jim Norton and Andrea Irvine; 5 News Update (99327803)
10.55 Dr Fox's Chart Update The latest pop hits (2583358)
11.00 V Sci-fi mini-series about an alien invasion. Marc Singer stars (r) (1419261)
1.00am Live and Dangerous All-night sports *magazine (43481830)*
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Bev scares her fellow inmates and Joan's dismissal has wider implications (9000615)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9591472)

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (34445) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (97716) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (34342) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (40667) **10.00** Oprah (42464) **11.00** Guilty! (59700) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (55377) **1.00** Mad About You (33716) **1.30** Jeopardy (62613) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (20754) **3.00** Jenny Jones (60735) **4.00** Guilty! (76342) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (9209) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (2223) **6.30** Friends (7193) **7.00** The Simpsons (4498) **7.30** The Simpsons (3377) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (90464) **9.00** First Wave (35700) **10.00** South Park (13087) **10.30** Seinfeld (28735) **11.00** Friends (77071) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (1200[illegible]) **12.30am** The Commish (21255) **1.30** Long Play (7253014)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
Boogie Nights (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
In and Out (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 *(Transponder 59)*
Fairytale: A True Story (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Picture Perfect (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Bob Le Flambeur (1955) (98712250) **7.40** 20th Century Hall of Fame: Maurice Chevalier (1683358) **8.00 The Cincinnati Kid (1965)** (8123087) **10.00 The Gambler (1997)** (2686209) **11.40 The Music of Chance (1993)** (3303174) **1.15am The Killer (1989)** (1648781) **3.10 1984 (1984)** (39241584) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Mrs Winterbourne (1996) (86513) **8.00 Picture Perfect (1996)** (70532) **9.30 The Wedding (1997)** *(61919)* **11.30 We the Jury (1997)** (78993) **1.30pm Mrs Winterbourne (1996)** (91025) **3.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (3857) **4.00 Picture Perfect (1996)** (90174) **5.30 The Wedding (1997)** (30551) **7.30** Interview: Richard Attenborough (6087) **8.00 In Love and War (1997)** (87990) **10.00 The Saint (1997)** (52716) **12.00am Flirting with Disaster (1996)** (355323) **1.35 Desperate Trail (1994)** (326472) **3.10 Soapdish (1991)** (70916912)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.00am Mr Holland's Opus (1995) (275613) **7.30** Movie Magic (5424006) **8.15** Action Heroes: Tom Cruise (5451764) **9.00 And Baby Makes Six (1979)** (28342) **11.00 Theodore Rex (1995)** (28434) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales: Meg Ryan (55984) **1.30** Movie Magic (9133464) **2.15** Action Heroes (2271174) **3.00 And Baby Makes Six (1979)** (16822) **5.00 Three Women (1977)** (24919) **7.00 Theodore Rex (1995)** (49377) **9.00 Without Warning (1998)** (95919) **11.00 Men of Means (1997)** (129464) **12.35am Suspicion of Innocence (1997)** (7356472) **2.05 Clean and Sober (1988)** (23017217) **4.10 Three Women (1977)** (97008 472)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Woman in Green (1945) (4004716) **5.30** Hollywood Hall of Fame: Humphrey Bogart (3054551) **6.00 Call Northside 777 (1948)** (1728445) **8.00 A Place in the Sun (1951)** (1723990) **10.00 No Way to Treat a Lady (1968)** (8774803) **11.50 Three Hours to Kill (1954)** (2515261) **1.15am Hullabaloo Over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures (1978)** *(9846965)* **2.50** The Directors: The Films of Sydney Pollack (3576878) **3.50 King Kong (1933)** (16707385)

TNT

9.00pm No Guts, No Glory: 75 Years of Comedies (92873396) **10.00 Arsenic and Old Lace (1944)** (32795358) **12.15am The 25th Hour (1967)** *(89147878)* **2.15 The Comedians (1967)** (68550694) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football Special **8.30** Snow Show **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Scottish Football **11.00** Football League Review **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** What a Weekend **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Spanish Football **3.30** Powerboat and *Jetski World* **4.00** *V-Max* **4.30** What a Weekend **5.00** Max Power **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** What a Weekend **7.00** Football League Review **8.00** Football Special **9.30** What a Weekend **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Football League Review **12.00am** Sports Centre **12.15** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Football Special **2.30** Football League Review **3.30** Sports Centre **3.45** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Racing News **8.00** US Golf: Nissan Open **11.00** Snooker: Scottish Open **2.00pm** US Golf: Nissan Open **5.00** Football League Review **6.00** Powerboat and Jetski World **6.30** V-Max **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.30** Total Sport **11.00** Powerboat and Jetski World **11.30** International Bowls **1.30am** V-Max **2.00** Sports Centre **2.15** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Motorsport **3.30** Snow Show **4.00** Basketball **6.00** Moto-Plus **6.30** Total Sport **7.00** Fish TV **8.00** International Bowls **10.00** Wonderful World of Golf **11.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing: A to Z of Motor Sport **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Nordic Skiing **8.30** Alpine Skiing **9.30** Live Women's Nordic Skiing **10.30** Swimming **11.15** Live Nordic Skiing **12.30pm** Luge **1.00** Tennis **2.30** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **3.30** Nordic Skiing **4.00** Live 5-a-Side Football **5.30** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **6.15** *Extreme* Sports **7.00** Live 5-a-Side Football **10.00** Football Eurogoals **11.30** Women's Alpine Skiing **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Casualty **10.05** Hamish Macbeth **11.10** Open All Hours **11.50** The Bill **12.20am** The Bill **12.50** Blackadder II **1.20** French and Saunders **1.50** Spender **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor at Large **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** *Emmerdale Farm* **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Sez Les **11.00** Men and Motors



Val Kilmer takes the lead role in the big screen adaptation of the classic 1960s adventure series *The Saint* (Sky Premier, 10pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** London Bridge **6.30** Get Back **7.00** Boon **8.00** Birds of a Feather **8.30** A Kind of Living **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries **10.00** Big Sky **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00am** Us and Them **12.30** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Jungle 2 Jungle (1997)** **8.40** Dinosaurs **9.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.15** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched By An Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **8.25** The Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** Fox Kids X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Arthur **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** L A P D **9.30** Cops **10.00** Men's Magazine **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: The Howling (1980)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Men's Magazine **2.35** Cops **3.05 FILM: Screwball Hotel (1989)** **5.00** L A P D **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Cape **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Tank Girl (1994)** **12.00am** Tales of the Unexpected **12.30** Tales of the Unexpected **1.00 FILM: Zapped! (1982)** **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Potted History **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Diceman **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Leopard: Prince of Predators **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Nick's Quest **8.30** The Supernatural **9.00** Natural Disasters **9.30** Natural Disasters **10.00** The Andes **11.00** Light Flight to Jordan **12.00am** The Andes **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Animal X **12.30** Ocean Wilds **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** It's a Vet's Life **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Going Wild with Jeff Corwin **9.00** Wild at Heart **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Hunters **11.00** Breed All About It: Pointers **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Hippo! **7.30** Castaways **8.00** Man Eaters: Shark Attack Files II **9.00** Sea Monsters: Search for the Giant Squid **10.00** Lost Worlds: Lost Kingdoms of the Maya **11.00** Lost Worlds: Ancient Graves **12.00am** On the Edge: Wall Crawler

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: The Valley of the Shadow of Death **5.00** Lighter Than Air: To the North **6.00** The Search for the Abominable Snowman **7.00** Fabulous Fortunes: Show Business — Megastars to Megabucks **7.30** Giants of the Sport: On Top of the World — 1965-1970

CARLTON FOOD

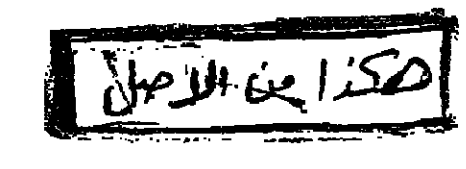
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Restaurant *Show* **10.30** *Alive and Cooking* **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Winter Nosh **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Tessa's Tastebuds **2.00** Lunch with Ed Baines **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Jenny Bristow Cooking in the Kitchen **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Grape Expectations **4.30** Passion for Flavour **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** Jerry Springer **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Ricki Lake **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** Jerry Springer **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00 FILM: Search for Sarah (1995)** **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen **5.30** Music Time **6.00** Your Zindagi **6.30** Geet Gata Chal **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Ru-Ba-Ru **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Jaan **9.30** Bane Bi Apni Baat **10.00** Pal-Do-Pal **11.00** Jhat Pat Khana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Quiz Contest **5.00** Daastan **5.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **6.00** Music Mag **6.30** Teacher **7.00** Ghar Jamai **7.30** Filmi Baatein **8.00** News **8.30** Gumrah **9.00** Sa Re Ga Ma **10.00** The Big Debate **11.00** Shapath **11.30** Stunt Two **12.00am** News **12.30** Aap Ki Adalat **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Raahat **2.00** FILM **4.30** Ebar Jombe Mowja





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BAe chief's Ordnance view awaited

BUSINESS

US STORY 46
Roger Bootle on a lasting 'miracle'



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1999

BT could be white knight in battle for Telecom Italia

By Richard Miles

BRITISH TELECOM emerged last night as a potential white knight for Telecom Italia, the former state utility which is the target of a $60 billion (£36 billion) hostile bid by Olivetti, the Italian telecoms group.

While BT declined to comment on market speculation that it might intervene, analysts were quick to name the British operator as a likely candidate to offer to take a stake in Telecom Italia by way of an alliance.

Olivetti unveiled its takeover plans by disclosing an agreement to sell its holdings in Omnitel and Infostrada, Italy's fast-growing mobile and fixed-line telecoms companies, to its partner Mannesmann, the German industrial and media conglomerate.

The sale of these holdings would raise DM14.9 billion (£5.1 billion) towards Olivetti's highly leveraged 10 euros per share bid for Telecom Italia. The price represents a 10 per cent premium to the Friday closing price of Telecom Italia's shares, which have soared in the last few days on talk of a possible deal.

Olivetti intends to borrow heavily to finance the bid, paying six euros in cash, 2.6 euros in bonds and 1.4 euros in newly issued shares through a wholly owned subsidiary, Tecnost. The company claims it has substantial support from its shareholders for the ambitious acquisition.

Sources close to Olivetti said that Roberto Colaninno, the managing director who has turned around the computer company since joining in 1996, was keen to inject similar management disciplines at Telecom Italia, which has lost its way since privatisation two years ago.

Under the leadership of Signor Colaninno, Olivetti's share price rose 280 per cent in 1997 and 500 per cent in the following year, as he transformed the company by selling off under-performing businesses, including the computing interest on which the company's name was founded. Nonetheless, with a market capitalisation of £44 billion, Telecom Italia remains seven times larger than Olivetti.

For regulatory reasons, Olivetti has framed its offer as an intent to bid. Approval will be required from the Italian Treasury, which still has a 3 per cent stake in the utility. The authorities would also have to approve the sale of the holdings in Omnitel and Infostrada, because the deal would involve the transfer of licences and concessions.

The sale of the holdings — Olivetti owns 100 per cent of Infostrada and controls Omnitel through a joint venture — to Mannesmann would be entirely conditional on the completion of the Telecom Italia deal. If its bid is successful, Olivetti would become the fourth largest telecoms company in Europe.

Industry sources suggested yesterday that executives from Telecom Italia had considered launching a counter-bid. News of this had triggered Olivetti's earlier than expected statement of intent on Saturday evening.

Antonio Tesone, chairman of Olivetti, gave warning yesterday that Telecom Italia was vulnerable to a "foreign offensive" if its bid failed.

William Hill sale angers Warburgs

By Dominic Walsh and Robert Lea

COLLAPSE of the William Hill flotation at the weekend has been followed by bitter recriminations from within Warburg Dillon Read, broker to the issue, which was kept in the dark over the plans by Nomura, the bookmaker's owner, to instigate a trade sale.

Warburgs was informed of the decision to sell the chain toCinven and CVC Capital Partners, the venture capitalists, for £825 million just minutes before Nomura announced the deal on Saturday afternoon.

Insiders at Warburgs, furious at their treatment by Nomura, claimed that if it had known of the possibility of such a deal it could have achieved a satisfactory flotation price. "If we had been aware of this, it would have effectively underwritten the flotation. We could have approached the institutions from a position of strength and used it to exert pressure on them rather than having to slash the price to get it away," said a source.

The deal, which is equivalent to 150p a share, follows a dramatic week in which Warburgs' inability to attract support from big City investors at the indicative price range of 155p to 175p led to the offer price being cut to just 135p, or £780 million including debt. The price cut resulted in the institutional issue being almost three times oversubscribed.

Nomura admitted yesterday that it had first been approached by Cinven with an indicative offer of £825 million in December. When the price cut was announced its merchant bank advisers contacted Cinven and CVC. Michael Smith, CVC chairman, said: "There was an element of opportunity in this."

The events leave question marks over Nomura's future relationship with the City, which it will have to deal with when negotiating the exit from the string of businesses that it has built up, including the large pubs businesses, the Unique Pub Company and Inntrepreneur.

One analyst said: "The lesson seems to be that the venture capital market is paying more for mid-range stocks than the IPO [initial public offering] market. But for how long can venture capitalists go on selling businesses to each other? What will be the exit route for William Hill next time around?" Warburgs is to be paid an "abort fee" rather than the estimated £7 million or so from floating the bookmaker.

INVESTORS' FREE BET COMPENSATION

PRIVATE investors who applied for William Hill shares will get a goodwill compensation payment together with a voucher entitling them to a free £20 bet in one of the chain's 1,500 shops.

The voucher is for a "double" bet on the Worthington Lincoln on March 27 and the Grand National on April 10. They will also receive the equivalent of two weeks' interest on their money at an annual rate of 5 per cent, which for those who applied for the minimum of £1,000 of shares comes to just £2. Refunds will be posted by March 1. Nearly 90,000 private investors paid £166 million through the share shops dealing with the issue.

One customer welcomed the free bet as "a bit of fun" but Françoise Gautier, from Surrey, said: "The interest is a joke and the free bet is an insult. I never go near betting shops."



Glenda Jackson, left and Emma Thompson campaigning against Railtrack's £20 million plan for West Hampstead station

MP fights to stop Railtrack project arriving at station

By Fraser Nelson

GLENDA JACKSON, the Transport Minister, is heading a campaign to stop Railtrack building a £20 million high-rise retail complex in her Hampstead and Highgate constituency in North London.

Ms Jackson has backed local shopkeepers and residents who believe that Railtrack's plan to build glass-walled buildings containing supermarkets, restaurants and flats on its land at West Hampstead station will ruin the environment. The campaign against the proposals has been joined by Emma Thompson, a fellow Oscar-winning actress and local resident.

The planned West Hampstead development is one of four at neglected stations in London that Railtrack is planning to refurbish. The scheme will cost a total of £48 million, but it is intended that it will be financed from the returns on the newly built offices and shops at each location.

Railtrack property directors have dismissed the MP's call to curtail the development, saying that it cannot otherwise afford the refurbishments.

Ms Jackson said: "I found this argument very curious, because Railtrack made £224 million of profits at the last half-year. Nobody is against improving the station, but I don't think their designs are appropriate for West Hampstead."

Emma Thompson, who has lived in West Hamsptead since childhood, is understood to have offered to help to hand out leaflets campaigning against the development, which will include the tallest building in the area by far, containing 116 apartments.

Ms Jackson is playing down traders' hope that her clout in Whitehall will lead to Railrack backing down. She said: "I'm not responsible for what's on Railtrack's mind. I am acting as a local MP here — I cannot act as Transport Minister because I have clear constituency interests."

Ministers in G7 vow to help debtor nations

By Richard Miles

FINANCE ministers from the Group of Seven industrial nations have pledged to speed up debt relief for some of the world's poorest countries.

After meeting in Bonn, the G7 ministers said they would reach a deal by June on how to improve the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, launched in 1996 under the umbrella of the International Monetary Fund. Only a few countries, such as Uganda and Bolivia, have met the strict criteria for HIPC relief.

A breakthrough was made possible by the conversion of Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, who wants to cut the six-year track record required of countries before they qualify. Britain also wants to relax criteria for debt levels.

The G7 ministers also admitted that growth prospects for the world economy had deteriorated, voicing concern about Russia's economic plight and agreeing to keep a closer check on flows of capital to avoid future financial crises. They said: "Financial market conditions have worsened in some regions and the outlook for global economic growth is somewhat less favourable. The impact of financial crises is now felt beyond the regions where the crises occurred."

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said the outlook for the US economy was good, but that Japan and, especially, Europe needed to boost growth.

Outlook, page 43

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1647

ACROSS
1 Bloom: reach (peak) (6)
5 Puzzle: frustrate (6)
8 Cold-meat counter (4)
9 Large-eyed primate, the galago (8)
10 Dignified, grand, and slow (7)
11 Tripoli its capital (5)
13 Oversee (11)
16 Calm; poteen apparatus (5)
18 A glazed earthenware (7)
21 Force majeure (8)
22 Russ. river, mountain (range) (4)
23 Pithy (aphorism) (6)
24 Gentle; preoccupied; impractical (6)

DOWN
2 He kills Hamlet (7)
3 Narrow part of body (for some) (5)
4 Coarse banter (8)
5 Centre of operations: ignoble (4)
6 Feverish (7)
7 Hall; pressure group (5)
12 Crewless; bereft of courage (8)
14 Shrine visitor (7)
15 Read sonorously (7)
17 A rune; irritation (in side) (5)
19 (Mus.) exercise piece (5)
20 Plate; record (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1646
ACROSS: 7 Construction 9 Peasant 10 Relic 11 Roam 12 Great auk 15 Posthude 17 Nana 19 Iller 21 Peacock 22 Take for a ride
DOWN: 1 Nowadays 2 Essay 3 Writer 4 Accrual 5 Rill 6 Knick-knacks 8 Appropriate 13 Anaconda 14 Clarify 16 Deport 18 Fairy 20 Luke

Versace heiress intends to revive flotation plan

From Fraser Nelson in Frankfurt

DONATELLA Versace, who inherited the Versace fashion house from her late brother Gianni, intends to take the company public in a £1 billion stock market flotation.

Ms Versace, who jointly runs the company with her brother Santo, said yesterday that she would revive Gianni's plan to float Versace without ceding family control.

Versace's original plans for a float were scrapped when Gianni was murdered 19 months ago.

Speaking at the launch of Versace's new tableware range in Frankfurt yesterday, Ms Versace said: "We were thinking about a flotation two years ago. Now I am in favour of a flotation, but in time. I am very pro the idea of Versace becoming a public company."

She said she was undeterred by the plight of Gucci, her Amsterdam-listed rival, which is fighting what it believes to be a creeping takeover by Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH.





Versace: no ceding control

"I would float a small part only. I am not in favour of putting the whole company on the market," she said.

City analysts who had gathered in Frankfurt for the Ambiente crystal and china trade fair said Ms Versace could expect the company to be valued at about three times its annual sales. But they do not expect a float until two or three years' time.

One said: "Investors are always looking for what they see as an eternal brand but the luxury goods sector is wary of large family ownerships. The Versace family would have to reduce their holding for the float to be a success."

Ms Versace was the guest of Tony O'Reilly, the Irish media magnate who last night hosted a party in Frankfurt to present her with the inaugural Rosenthal award for outstanding achievements in design. Mr O'Reilly is chairman of Waterford Wedgwood, which owns Rosenthal and produces Versace's tableware range.

Review to prepare Liffe for the market

By Martin Waller

LIFFE, the London financial futures market, could be floated on the stock market within three years, Brian Williamson, the chairman, believes, if an extraordinary meeting on Thursday agrees to bring in external investors to the exchange.

Mr Williamson is conducting a review of future options for Liffe, which includes various possible alliances and mergers, he says in his first newspaper interview since taking office last August.

But the eventual aim remains a flotation, and the exchange has taken on Schroders, the merchant bank, to advise on the restructuring needed to achieve this.

"It's difficult to get there in one go," Mr Williamson said. "You have to have a board that looks like a shareholders' board rather than a members' one." He said flotation would take at least two years to achieve but would produce the sort of business culture that he is looking for. "You should always be thinking about shareholder value."

Prosperous Liffe, page 46

Consumers gain more confidence

BRITISH consumers are continuing to recover from their winter loss of confidence as interest rates fall. Confidence in their personal financial prospects has hit an all-time high, according to the latest survey for the European Commission by GfK (Janet Bush writes).

This month's survey shows that overall confidence rose to minus 1 from minus 3 in January and a trough last autumn of minus 9. GfK said that the 0.5 per cent cut in base rates earlier this month undoubtedly contributed to the recovery.